

# News Clips Report

Date	HeadLine	Outlet
01/22/2013	DOI To Revise Fracking Proposal	Inside EPA Weekly Report
01/22/2013	How to Keep Promises to Expand Energy Production and Create American Jobs	Heritage Foundation
01/22/2013	American Power Group Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services for Hydraulic Fracturing Installation in the Marcellus Shale Region	Collegiate Presswire - Online
01/22/2013	American Power Group Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services for Hydraulic Fracturing Installation in the Marcellus Shale Region	Bloomberg Businessweek - Online
01/22/2013	American Power Group Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services for Hydraulic Fracturing Installation in the Marcellus Shale Region	Individual.com
01/22/2013	American Power Group Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services for Hydraulic Fracturing Installation in the Marcellus Shale Region	Marketwire
01/22/2013	APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region	Market News Publishing
01/22/2013	APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region	Market News Publishing
01/21/2013	Broadview Heights residents urged to see for themselves drilling's adverse effects: Letter to the Editor	Plain Dealer - Online
01/21/2013	The Oil Drum   Drumbeat: January 21, 2013	TheOilDrum.com
01/21/2013	Fracking bubbles over: EPA changing course after gas company protests	WaterWorld - Online
01/21/2013	50 min 10 What the Frack is the Holdup on Fracking in New York? energy Empire state debates whether to exploit oil and gas reserves	www.topix.com
01/21/2013	EPA changed course after oil company protested	WJTV-TV - Online
01/20/2013	Who's afraid of fracking?	Enter Stage Right
01/20/2013	Fracking bubbles over: EPA changing course after gas company protests	Electric Light and Power
01/20/2013	The follies of the frackophobes	New York Post - Online
01/20/2013	EPA changed course after oil company protested	Yahoo! News
01/20/2013	VOGE: EPA owes Wyoming an explanation	Casper Star-Tribune - Online
01/20/2013	Fracking, integrity of EPA targeted	Hutchinson News - Online
01/20/2013	EPA backs off fracking complaint after oil company protest	Daily Herald - Online
01/20/2013	EPA changed course after company protest   Tulsa World	Tulsa World - Online

01/20/2013	EPA changed course after company protest	Tulsa World - Online
01/20/2013	EPA changed course after gas company protested	News-Star - Online, The
01/20/2013	Fracking bubbles over: EPA changing course after gas company protests	Abilene Reporter-News - Online
01/20/2013	EPA changed course after protest	Tulsa World
01/19/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Scotch Plains-Fanwood Patch
01/19/2013	EPA changed course after gas company protested	Lake Wylie Pilot - Online
01/19/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	Collegiate Presswire - Online
01/19/2013	Fracking debate draws Yoko, Lennon and Sarandon to rural battlegrounds	Equities.com
01/18/2013	Md.'s budget includes shale study funds &#187;Homepage &#187;Cumberland Times-News	Cumberland Times-News - Online
01/18/2013	Md.'s budget includes shale study funds &#187;Local News &#187;Cumberland Times-News	Cumberland Times-News - Online
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	East Brunswick Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Collingswood Patch
01/18/2013	Part 2: Transparency that Benefits All--Disclosing Fracturing Fluids and Operations	WaterWorld - Online
01/18/2013	Frackademia: How the Fracking Industry Tries To Bully Or Buy Scientists	CorpWatch
01/18/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	Markets.financialcontent.com
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Point Pleasant Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Princeton Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Moorestown Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Manalapan Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Summit Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Clark-Garwood Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking	Ocean City Patch

	Waste	
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Little Silver-Oceanport Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Springfield (N.J.) Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Long Branch-Eatontown Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	East Windsor Patch
01/18/2013	Buckle down on natural gas. - Obama and the Environment: What He Can Do: Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking") - MensJournal.com	Men's Journal - Online
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Red Bank-Shrewsbury Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Freehold Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Wall Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Lacey Patch
01/18/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	Daily Herald - Online (press release)
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Cinnaminson Patch
01/18/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	paidContent.org
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Middletown (N.J.) Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Brick Patch
01/18/2013	Big Oil and Gas Back Attacks on 'Promised Land'	Nation - Online, The
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	West Deptford Patch
01/18/2013	Fracking debate draws Yoko, Lennon and Sarandon to rural battlegrounds	Guardian Unlimited
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	South Brunswick Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED!	Cranford Patch

	State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Galloway Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Westfield Patch
01/18/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	StreetInsider.com
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Berkeley (N.J.) Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Manchester (N.J.) Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Rumson-Fair Haven Patch
01/18/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	Individual.com
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Howell Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Lawrenceville (N.J.) Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Matawan-Aberdeen Patch
01/18/2013	Obama EPA Shut Down Study on Fracking Water Contamination in Texas	DAILY KOS
01/18/2013	House Democrats push EPA to move faster on Pavillion	EnergyWire
01/18/2013	GOP Faults Delayed EPA Fracking Study	Inside EPA Weekly Report
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Gloucester Township Patch
01/18/2013	Filmmakers decry 'death, destruction' myths as they tout pro-fracking documentary	EnergyWire
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	New Providence-Berkeley Heights Patch
01/18/2013	New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste	Cherry Hill Patch
01/18/2013	Maryland Fracking Study: O'Malley Proposes \$1.5 Million In 2014 Budget For Natural Gas Research	Huffington Post, The
01/18/2013	New Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure	Bignews.biz
01/18/2013	New Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on	Bignews.biz



01/18/2013	Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure	Bignews.biz
01/18/2013	CBS This Morning	WBNG-TV
01/18/2013	EPA changed course after oil company protested	Yahoo! Finance
01/18/2013	Action News This Morning 6am	Action News This Morning - WBNG-TV
01/18/2013	Action News This Morning 5am	Action News This Morning - WBNG-TV
01/18/2013	Deroy Murdock: Get over the fear of fracking	Visalia Times-Delta - Online
01/18/2013	Obama EPA Shut Down Weatherford, TX Shale Gas Water Contamination Study	Huffington Post, The
01/18/2013	Matt Mead, Wyoming Governor, Speaks Out Against EPA Extension Of Groundwater Comment Period	Huffington Post, The
01/18/2013	American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	Marketwire
01/18/2013	CEO To Present At The World LNG Fuels Conference 2013	Market News Publishing
01/18/2013	EPA LIKELY FORCED TO DELAY 'CRUCIAL' BASELINE RESEARCH IN FRACKING STUDY	Inside EPA Weekly Report
01/18/2013	FRACKING BAN EXPIRES IN N.J., DEBATE LIVES ON	Record, The
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## DOI To Revise Fracking Proposal Inside EPA Weekly Report

**01/22/2013**

The Department of the Interior (DOI) plans to revise its draft rules setting minimal standards for disclosure, wastewater management and other aspects of hydraulic fracturing for oil and gas drilling on public lands, after oil groups and others urged major changes to the proposal due to concerns it could create duplicative and unnecessary regulations on top of state oversight.

DOI says it will reconsider its existing proposal in order to include more flexibilities and better coordinate with existing state rules, according to a Jan. 18 press release.

The department's Bureau of Land Management first (BLM) issued the proposed fracking rules May 11, and took comment through Sept. 10. BLM had planned to use the public comments received to shape a final rule that had been slated for White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) pre-publication review by the end of 2012. But BLM now intends to rewrite the proposal, and after the new draft wins OMB approval, the department will release it for comment.

A DOI spokesman said in the press release that BLM will send the revised proposal for OMB review next week. BLM, which received more than 170,000 comments on the proposal, expects to release the new draft rules for public comment within the first quarter of this year.

The new proposal is expected to retain the three core components of the May draft rules, the spokesman says, including disclosure requirements for fracking chemicals, updated well integrity standards and first-time wastewater management regulations. But the spokesman says BLM is making "improvements to the draft proposal in order to maximize flexibility, facilitate coordination with state practices and ensure that operators on public lands implement best practices."

The draft requirements would set minimal standards for oil and gas drilling activities that occur on public lands, updating BLM's regulations for those operations for the first time since 1988 -- long before technological advancements in fracking made it possible unlock huge reserves of fossil fuels but created new environmental concerns.

Energy industry groups, which opposed the May proposal as duplicative and unnecessary, are welcoming BLM's decision to issue revised draft rules.

American Petroleum Institute President and CEO Jack Gerard in a Jan. 18 press release called the decision a "positive first step," acknowledging that API asked the administration to reconsider the rules. Gerard cautioned that any new proposal should "recognize the strong oversight provided by existing state and federal regulations," and that "Conflicting or duplicative federal requirements would delay development of abundant domestic oil and natural gas and threaten jobs and revenue to the federal treasury, without providing additional environmental protection."

The Western Energy Alliance in a Jan. 18 press release says the decision "to undertake a more deliberative process makes good common and legal sense," noting that the group continues to believe that federal regulations are not necessary given that the states have a long history of oil and gas oversight. An economic analysis commissioned by the group reported annual costs associated with the May draft rules "at least \$1.499 billion and as high as \$1.615 billion."

Some environmental groups, while stressing that new BLM rules for oil and gas drilling were badly needed to update the nearly three decades old regulation, criticized the stringency of the May proposal, saying its approach to chemical disclosure was weaker than several existing state rules.

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The disclosure provision in the DOI draft rules would have required drillers to publicly disclose chemicals used in their fracking operations only after the process is completed -- an approach that is weaker than disclosure requirements in key states, including Colorado, Wyoming and Texas, which require pre-injection disclosure.

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## How to Keep Promises to Expand Energy Production and Create American Jobs Heritage Foundation

01/22/2013

President Barack Obama's energy policy during his first term runs counter to his campaign promise to expand energy production and create jobs during his second term. During his first term, he delayed, restricted, and regulated some energy sources while subsidizing, mandating, and giving special tax treatment to others. To keep his promise to increase energy production and create jobs, the President should shift from the paternalistic—and failed—energy policy of “Washington always knows best” to a free-market energy policy in which energy producers and consumers decide what works best. Such a policy would also relieve taxpayers of the burden of subsidizing the energy sector.

One of President Barack Obama's central promises during the presidential campaign was to produce more American jobs by expanding energy production. The problem is that the energy policy that he pursued during his first term is having the exact opposite effect. With one hand, President Obama used delaying tactics, restrictions, and regulations to limit some resources, while with the other, he doled out subsidies, mandates, and special tax treatments to micromanage the energy sector. As a result, energy production on federal lands is down, the coal industry is shrinking, renewables are dependent on government support, and a once promising nuclear industry is at a virtual standstill.

The one encouraging development is the expansion of oil and gas production on private lands as a result of horizontal drilling and hydraulic fracturing. However, this success emerged organically from the private marketplace, not from any specific government policy to promote these technologies and processes. To his credit, the President stayed out of the way and allowed the marketplace to work, although regulations proposed by the Obama Administration could change that.

Instead of attempting to control the energy sector from Washington, the President should learn from hydraulic fracturing and trust private-sector investment and innovation and consumer choice to drive American energy policy.

An energy policy that allows the private sector to meet America's energy needs will provide Americans with the most secure fuel choices at the lowest prices. The energy marketplace will work if the President and the Administration will just allow it. To achieve this, President Obama should open access to all domestic resources, reduce the bureaucratic regulatory overreach where the costs overwhelmingly outweigh the benefits, open international energy markets, and remove subsidies for all energy sources.

The following sections, summarized in Table 1, use statements by President Obama to introduce his positions on today's major energy policy issues. While energy policy is often more complex than can be captured in a single quote, each quote provides insight into how the President approached the issue during his first term. Each section also includes recommendations on how the President should shift his policies to keep his promises to expand energy production and create jobs in his second term.

### Coal

So if somebody wants to build a coal-powered plant, they can. It's just that it will bankrupt them because they're going to be charged a huge sum for all that greenhouse gas that's being emitted.[1]

Recommendation. Congress should stop the needless regulatory avalanche that threatens to shrink the percentage of coal in America's energy portfolio. This includes repealing, preventing, or freezing unnecessary regulations and empowering the states to pursue economic growth and environmental protection. Congress should also remove all preferential treatment for clean coal technologies.

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Rationale. Coal has been shrinking as a part of America's electricity generation, in part because of cheaper natural gas, but also because of the federal government's heavy regulatory hand. New and proposed regulations are forcing existing coal-fired power plants to shut down prematurely and make construction of new coal-fired plants almost impossible. This is also adversely affecting coal mining operations.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "The Assault on Coal and American Consumers."[2]

## Hydraulic Fracturing

We must proactively address concerns that have been raised regarding potential negative impacts associated with hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") practices. That is why the Administration is taking steps to address these concerns.[3]

Recommendation. Congress should prevent federal agencies from creating additional layers of red tape that would slow energy production and much-needed economic growth in the United States.

Rationale. Hydraulic fracturing (fracking) is a process that has helped to tap vast amounts of oil and natural gas and created hundreds of thousands of jobs. Cheap natural gas is saving consumers money and attracting many energy-intensive manufacturing facilities to locate to the United States. Although there has been much concern that fracking may contaminate drinking water through gas migration and through the use of chemical additives, the process has proved to be safe and has been successfully regulated at the state level for decades. Federal attempts to further regulate fracking are redundant and unnecessary.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, "Hydraulic Fracturing: Critical for Energy Production, Jobs, and Economic Growth."[4]

## Climate Change and Carbon Reduction

Climate change is one of the biggest issues of this generation, and we have to meet this challenge by driving smart policies that lead to greater growth in clean energy generation and result in a range of economic and social benefits.[5]

Recommendation. Congress should prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from regulating carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and other greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act and should prevent regulators from using any agency or law to regulate the U.S. economy based on climate change findings.

Rationale. Because carbon-emitting fossil fuels produce 82 percent of the energy used in the United States, pricing and regulating carbon dioxide emissions would function as a massive energy tax that would hit consumers again and again, particularly harming low-income families, who spend a disproportionately higher percentage of their income on energy. While the earth is likely warming and manmade emissions are likely playing a minor role, the warming is not catastrophic. Further, a unilateral approach would do nothing to mitigate global temperatures, and developing countries with rapidly rising emissions, like China and India, will not curb their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Recommended Reading. David W. Kreutzer and Roy W. Spencer, "Carbon Dioxide Regulation and the American Conservation Ethic."[6]

## EPA

You've got a president who is grateful for your [the EPA's] work and will stand with you every inch of the way as you carry out your mission to make sure that we've got a cleaner world.[7]

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**Recommendation.** Congress should intervene to stop the EPA's regulatory overreach and to reform the major environmental laws that grant the EPA its power.

**Rationale.** Congress is spending more and accomplishing less to conserve America's environment and use the nation's natural resources wisely. The EPA's crushing regulations are artificially driving up the cost of energy, preventing the creation of jobs while providing little or no environmental benefit. The Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and National Environmental Policy Act are outdated, and unelected bureaucrats at the EPA have used them to apply a heavy regulatory hand. This was made abundantly clear when the agency rammed through regulations using the Clean Air Act to regulate CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gas emissions after Congress rejected capping CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Recommended Reading.** Jack Spencer, ed., *Eight Principles of the American Conservation Ethic*[8]

## Energy Independence

That's why if we really want energy security and energy independence, we've got to start looking at how we use less oil, and use other energy sources that we can renew and that we can control, so we are not subject to the whims of what's happening in other countries.[9]

**Recommendation.** Policymakers' primary concern should be ensuring that the U.S. energy market has the ability to operate by introducing and expanding market-oriented policies that allow producers and consumers to balance supply and demand.

**Rationale.** Energy independence should not be the goal of energy policy. The goal should be to create an energy market that allows producers and consumers to respond to energy prices. Even so, it is important to recognize that the United States already has a high degree of energy independence. Most electricity consumed in the United States is produced domestically, with a small amount imported from friendly nations. The U.S. is more dependent on foreign countries for transportation fuels, but America's two single largest suppliers are Canada and Mexico.

However, oil is a global commodity. Whether the U.S. is a net importer or net exporter will not insulate Americans from price volatility any more than U.S. self-sufficiency in food production prevents supply problems in other parts of the world from affecting domestic U.S. food prices.

Although energy independence is a catchy sound bite, it should not be the policy goal. The biggest threat to America's reliable and affordable energy is government intervention through unnecessary regulations, subsidies, preferential tax treatment, and other market-distorting policies.

**Recommended Reading.** Stuart M. Butler and Kim R. Holmes, "Twelve Principles to Guide U.S. Energy Policy."[10]

## Gas Prices

But we've also got to continue to figure out how we have efficient energy, because ultimately that's how we're going to reduce demand and that's what's going to keep gas prices lower.[11]

**Recommendation.** The government should not be involved in energy efficiency initiatives, which restrict consumer choice, drive up sticker prices, and have unintended negative consequences. Further, policymakers should remove barriers to oil exploration and production and reform the regulatory process. Environmental review and leasing processes should be reformed to make them more timely and reliable.

**Rationale.** Prices communicate essential information, and the best way for politicians to respond to higher gas prices is to allow the market to work. If oil prices rise, suppliers will explore and drill for more oil, and entrepreneurs will explore and

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invest in alternative fuel technologies. Consumers may switch to public transportation or purchase more fuel-efficient vehicles over the intermediate to longer term. Consumers do not need government-imposed fuel efficiency standards to make those choices.

The government should stop its paternalistic behavior of trying—and failing—to save consumers money with energy efficiency initiatives. Further, reforming the regulatory process and increasing oil supply by removing barriers to oil exploration and production will do more to lower prices and generate economic activity.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, “Ten Actions Congress Can Take to Lower Gas Prices.”[12]

Nicolas D. Loris and Derrick Morgan, “Cap-and-Trade for Cars Means Higher Prices and Less Choice for Car Buyers.” [13]

## Renewable Energy

This is the ultimate solution to our energy challenge. It’s not going to be a smooth, easy ride. Some of the clean-energy technologies that are discovered, they won’t pan out. Some companies will fail. There’s going to be experiments and research that take time. But as long as I’m President, I will not walk away from the promise of clean energy, because our future depends on it.[14]

Recommendation. Congress should create a framework that allows the environmental review and permitting process to proceed in a timely fashion. This should include devolving the permitting process for all energy projects to the states.

Rationale. Just as with all other energy sources and technologies, the federal government should not artificially prop up renewable sources of energy with subsidies and mandates, nor should they stifle these projects with burdensome regulation. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce identified 351 energy projects stalled by “not in my backyard” lawsuits, regulatory red tape, and endless lawsuits by environmental activists who want to quash these projects. Perhaps most surprising is the fact that almost 40 percent (140) of these stalled projects involve renewable energy.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, “Changing the Definition of ‘All of the Above’ Energy Policy.”[15]

## Keystone XL Pipeline

I’m disappointed that Republicans in Congress forced this decision, but it does not change my Administration’s commitment to American-made energy that creates jobs and reduces our dependence on oil.[16]

Recommendation. Under its authority to regulate commerce with foreign nations, Congress should accept the State Department’s environmental assessment and approve construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline.

Rationale. If President Obama had approved the permit for construction of the Keystone XL Pipeline, up to 830,000 barrels of oil per day would be coming from Canada to the Gulf Coast refineries as early as 2013. However, President Obama rejected the permit, claiming that the Department of State did not have the necessary information to recommend approval and that the decision was rushed. In reality, the State Department has already conducted a thorough, three-year environmental review with multiple comment periods. The State Department studied and addressed risks to soil, wetlands, water resources, vegetation, fish, wildlife, and endangered species. It concluded that construction of the pipeline would pose minimal environmental risk.

Recommended Reading. Nicolas D. Loris, “Unnecessary Keystone XL Pipeline Delay Obstructs Energy, Jobs.”[17]

Nicolas D. Loris, “Keystone a Key Ingredient Missing from Obama’s Economic Recovery Recipe.”[18]

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## Energy Subsidies

Instead of taxpayer giveaways to an industry that's never been more profitable, we should be using that money to double-down on investments in clean energy technologies that have never been more promising—investments in wind power and solar power and biofuels; investments in fuel-efficient cars and trucks, and energy-efficient homes and buildings. That's the future.[19]

**Recommendation.** Congress should eschew new subsidies and remove existing subsidies for all energy sources.

**Rationale.** Energy subsidies waste taxpayer dollars, promote economic inefficiency, and create technological stagnation. Subsidizing energy sources merely shifts labor and capital away from economically viable projects that would actually help to grow the economy to politically popular projects. Furthermore, subsidies increase the incentive to lobby for more subsidies, thereby perpetuating technological mediocrity by removing the incentive to innovate, reduce costs, and compete in the marketplace. Energy industries should be freed from all government subsidies and special policy treatment that benefit certain types of energy production at the expense of others. This would compel companies to rely on innovation and efficiency, not American taxpayers, to remain competitive and thrive in the free market.

**Recommended Reading.** Nicolas D. Loris, "No More Energy Subsidies: Prevent the New, Repeal the Old."[20]

Nicolas D. Loris and Curtis Dubay, "What's an Oil Subsidy?"[21]

## Renewable Fuels Standard

Biofuels are an important part of reducing America's dependence on foreign oil and creating jobs here at home. But supporting biofuels cannot be the role of government alone. That's why we're partnering with the private sector to speed development of next-generation biofuels that will help us continue to take steps towards energy independence and strengthen communities across our country.[22]

**Recommendation.** Congress should repeal the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) and eliminate targeted tax credits for all transportation fuels and technologies.

**Rationale.** If ethanol and advanced biofuels were economically viable alternatives for gasoline and diesel, the U.S. would not need to mandate their production and use. One example of the mandate's failure is a provision in the 2007 Energy Independence and Security Act that requires the production of 500 million gallons of ethanol in 2012 from cellulosic ethanol, primarily from non-food sources, such as wood chips, switch grass, or corn stover. To date, no such fuel has been produced because cellulosic ethanol is not commercially viable, and the EPA has fined refineries for not meeting the law's requirements. The EPA reduced the original goal for cellulosic biofuel production in 2012 to 8.65 million gallons—less than 2 percent of the original goal. The fact that cellulosic ethanol production is nowhere near providing industrial-scale quantities of fuel demonstrates the government's inability to determine what is commercially viable and beneficial for consumers. Further, the ethanol mandate in the RFS increases corn prices and food prices. This harms consumers and distorts the domestic and international commodity markets.

**Recommended Reading.** Nicolas D. Loris, "Two Cheers for Ethanol Subsidies Expiring—but Costly Mandate Remains." [23]

## Nuclear Energy

To meet our growing energy needs and prevent the worst consequences of climate change, we need to increase our supply of nuclear power and today's announcement [on the loan guarantee to new Georgia reactors] helps to move us



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down that path.[24]

**Recommendation.** The U.S. needs a market-based nuclear energy policy. This begins with a nuclear waste policy that gives utilities and other waste producers the primary responsibility for waste management. The nation also needs a regulator that can issue permits for new plants on a predictable basis at a reasonable cost and that is capable of regulating multiple types of reactors and other industrial facilities such as used fuel treatment plants.

**Rationale.** The nation's 104 operating nuclear power reactors provide 19 percent of U.S. electricity consumption. These plants operate safely, cleanly, and very affordably. The technology should be expanded consistent with market demand.

Today, five reactors are under construction and 10 applicants are seeking permits for new plants. Yet beyond the five reactors under construction, very little else is moving forward because America's obsolete nuclear energy policy has become a major impediment. The greatest hurdle for American nuclear power remains a broken nuclear waste policy. The common thread of successful nuclear waste management regimes throughout the world is that waste producers are responsible for waste management. The U.S. government needs to get out of the nuclear energy business. Today, the U.S. Department of Energy is too involved in determining which technologies move forward, and Congress is too quick to mitigate the problems with current policy by offering subsidies.

**Recommended Reading.** Jack Spencer, "Blue Ribbon Commission on Nuclear Waste: Missing Opportunity for Lasting Reform."[25]

Jack Spencer and Nicolas D. Loris, "A Big Future for Small Nuclear Reactors?"[26]

Yucca Mountain

We're done with Yucca. We need to be looking at other alternatives.

—Carol Browner, top energy advisor for the Obama Administration[27]

**Recommendation.** The Administration should immediately restart the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's review of the Yucca Mountain permit. If the commission approves the permit, the permit should be transferred to a Nevada-based entity that can then negotiate directly with the nuclear industry on what, if anything, to do to move the project forward.

**Rationale.** A nuclear waste repository at Yucca Mountain could be a critical piece of America's nuclear waste policy. Not only has the nation spent approximately \$15 billion on the repository, but no technical or scientific evidence has been produced to merit its termination. Yet without proposing any backup plan, President Obama terminated it, despite the 1982 Nuclear Waste Policy Act, as amended, which makes Yucca the site for the nation's waste repository. This has created significant regulatory uncertainty in the nuclear industry and has all but stopped progress on new plant permits. A market-based approach would help to determine the real value of the Yucca Mountain repository and create the conditions in which it could move forward.

**Recommended Reading.** Jack Spencer, "Yucca Mountain and Nuclear Waste Policy: A New Beginning?"[28]

Federal Lands Production

We have increased oil production to the highest levels in 16 years.

Natural gas production is the highest it's been in decades. We have seen increases in coal production and coal employment. But what I've also said is we can't just produce traditional sources of energy. We've also got to look to the future.[29]

# News Clips Report

**Recommendation.** Congress should open America's federal waters and all non-wilderness, non-monument federal lands to energy development and expand state permitting to develop those resources.

**Rationale.** Although oil and gas production has increased on private and state lands<sup>[30]</sup> energy production decreased 13 percent on federal lands from fiscal year (FY) 2010 to FY 2011. Allowing access for exploration and creating an efficient regulatory process that allows energy projects to move forward in a timely manner would increase revenue through more royalties, leases, and rent and would create jobs while lowering energy prices in the process. These are sensible policy ideas even without a debt crisis, but in the current fiscal climate, this is a no-brainer.

**Recommended Reading.** Nicolas D. Loris, "Energy Exploration Would Create Jobs and Raise Revenue Without Raising Taxes."<sup>[31]</sup>

## Free Trade and Energy Markets

The way we're going to create jobs here is not just to change our tax code but also to double our exports. And we are on pace to double our exports, one of the commitments I made when I was president.<sup>[32]</sup>

**Recommendation.** Open access to energy markets by approving export terminal permit applications in a timely manner and remove the restrictions that prevent exports of liquefied natural gas (LNG) to countries without free trade agreements with the United States. Further, the federal government should allow imports to reach the U.S. market without delay or market distortion.

**Rationale.** Given the private sector's desire to export natural gas, coal, and refined petroleum products, energy exports could play a critical role in reaching President Obama's goal of doubling exports, as dubious as that goal may be. Exporting energy would provide a huge boon to the U.S. economy because it would expand market opportunities for American companies and the higher prices would incentivize more exploration and production, offsetting some of the price increase. Providing other countries with cheaper energy would not only lower the prices of imports, but also promote economic development in those countries, enabling them to import more American goods.

Further, the federal government should not prevent other countries from providing Americans with affordable, reliable energy, as it has done by blocking the Keystone XL Pipeline and by levying a tariff on imported ethanol.

Finally, as the historical champion of free trade, the U.S. should initiate and approve more free trade agreements. Open markets are consistent with the public interest because they attract foreign investment and ease energy exports.

## Conclusion

America's greatest energy success during President Obama's first term was the boom in oil and natural gas production on private and state-owned lands. This energy revolution was not the result of any specific federal policy, but rather emerged organically from the private marketplace. The President deserves credit for staying out of the way.

Applying this same approach to other energy sources, technologies will yield similar outcomes. It will allow them to succeed or fail on their own merits. The President and Congress should begin with opening federal lands to energy development, reducing overreaching and punitive regulations, allowing free trade in energy and related technologies, and removing subsidies for all energy sources and technologies. Such a framework would enable President Obama to keep his campaign promise to create jobs by expanding America's energy production.

—Nicolas D. Loris is Herbert and Joyce Morgan Fellow, Katie Tubb is a Research Assistant, and Jack Spencer is Senior Research Fellow in Nuclear Energy in the Thomas A. Roe Institute for Economic Policy Studies at The Heritage

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# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services for Hydraulic Fracturing Installation in the Marcellus Shale Region Collegiate Presswire - Online**

**01/22/2013**

LYNNFIELD, MA--(Marketwire - Jan 22, 2013) - American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced today that its subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc. ("APG"), has received purchase orders totaling \$1.5 million from Cudd Energy Services to upgrade and convert diesel pumps used for hydraulic fracturing to APG's Turbocharged Natural Gas™ Dual Fuel System. APG will provide full turnkey installation including engineering services under an EPA Test Exemption while completing the EPA Memo 1A Testing and Compliance process, similar to the procedure APG completed in June 2012 for a different high-horsepower non-road compression ignition engine family. APG expects the installations to be completed during the next two calendar quarters in conjunction with the scheduled completion of the Memo 1A Testing.

Cudd Energy Services ([www.cudd.com](http://www.cudd.com)), a subsidiary of RPC Inc., is an oilfield service company offering a broad range of technical and specialized oilfield services to companies engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas worldwide.

Prometheus Energy ([www.prometheusenergy.com](http://www.prometheusenergy.com)) will manage the onsite supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as the primary natural gas fuel source. Prometheus Energy provides turnkey fuel solutions that enable oilfield and other industrial users of diesel and other crude-derived fuels to use secure domestic LNG, reducing fuel cost and emissions. The company is vertically integrated from LNG production, distribution and logistics to onsite storage and vaporization.

Lyle Jensen, CEO of American Power Group, stated, "We are extremely pleased that Cudd Energy Services has selected APG's dual fuel technology for the conversion of a hydraulic fracturing rig in the Marcellus Shale region. This marks our first full hydraulic fracturing rig conversion and our third major customer installation this year in the Marcellus Shale. APG's dual fuel system gives the oil and gas service contractor the maximum flexibility to utilize either liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG), pipeline gas, or qualified well-head gas as a natural gas fuel source to displace diesel for a significant net fuel savings and lower emissions. We are now seeing a dramatic increase in interest across the industry for the use of APG's dual fuel conversion technology in both drilling and hydraulic fracturing applications."

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Source: American Power Group Corporation

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**01/22/2013**

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Institutional Marketing Services (IMS)

203-972-9200

SOURCE: American Power Group Corporation



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## **American Power Group Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services for Hydraulic Fracturing Installation in the Marcellus Shale Region** **Marketwire**

**01/22/2013**

LYNNFIELD, MA, January 22 / Marketwire/ --

American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced today that its subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc. ("APG"), has received purchase orders totaling \$1.5 million from Cudd Energy Services to upgrade and convert diesel pumps used for hydraulic fracturing to APG's Turbocharged Natural Gas™ Dual Fuel System. APG will provide full turnkey installation including engineering services under an EPA Test Exemption while completing the EPA Memo 1A Testing and Compliance process, similar to the procedure APG completed in June 2012 for a different high-horsepower non-road compression ignition engine family. APG expects the installations to be completed during the next two calendar quarters in conjunction with the scheduled completion of the Memo 1A Testing.

Cudd Energy Services (), a subsidiary of RPC Inc., is an oilfield service company offering a broad range of technical and specialized oilfield services to companies engaged in the exploration and production of oil and natural gas worldwide.

Prometheus Energy () will manage the onsite supply of liquefied natural gas (LNG) as the primary natural gas fuel source. Prometheus Energy provides turnkey fuel solutions that enable oilfield and other industrial users of diesel and other crude-derived fuels to use secure domestic LNG, reducing fuel cost and emissions. The company is vertically integrated from LNG production, distribution and logistics to onsite storage and vaporization.

Lyle Jensen, CEO of American Power Group, stated, "We are extremely pleased that Cudd Energy Services has selected APG's dual fuel technology for the conversion of a hydraulic fracturing rig in the Marcellus Shale region. This marks our first full hydraulic fracturing rig conversion and our third major customer installation this year in the Marcellus Shale. APG's dual fuel system gives the oil and gas service contractor the maximum flexibility to utilize either liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG), pipeline gas, or qualified well-head gas as a natural gas fuel source to displace diesel for a significant net fuel savings and lower emissions. We are now seeing a dramatic increase in interest across the industry for the use of APG's dual fuel conversion technology in both drilling and hydraulic fracturing applications."

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# News Clips Report

## **APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region** **Market News Publishing**

**01/22/2013**

RPC INC

AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP ("APGI-0") RPC INC ("RES-N") - APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For - Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region

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NYSE closing price for RES-N Date: 2013/01/18 Closing Price: 13.85

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# News Clips Report

## **APGI Receives \$1.5 Million Order From Cudd Energy Services For Hydraulic Fracturing Installation In The Marcellus Shale Region** **Market News Publishing**

**01/22/2013**

**AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP**

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OTCBB closing price for APGI-0 Date: 2013/01/18 Closing Price: 0.70

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# News Clips Report

## **Broadview Heights residents urged to see for themselves drilling's adverse effects: Letter to the Editor Plain Dealer - Online**

**01/21/2013**

on January 21, 2013 at 4:00 PM, updated January 21, 2013 at 4:04 PM

In an article printed Jan. 10, Broadview Heights Mayor Sam Alai made this statement regarding the passage of the Bill of Rights in Broadview Heights: "I believe they (MADION) fooled the voters of Broadview Heights and made them fearful."

On the matter of preserving the health and safety of our children and our community from the toxic, carcinogenic chemicals used in drilling and fracking wells in our backyards, ignorance on this topic is not an option. And so, as always, I encourage everyone to embark on their own research. Some sources worth noting are as follows:

- Calvin Tillman, former Mayor of Dish, Texas: He moved his family from Dish due to concerns of the health impacts that the massive gas processing facility was having on his children. Former Mayor Tillman has firsthand knowledge on the health ramifications of drilling for natural gas so close to human beings.
- Dr. Theo Colborn, founder and president of The Endocrine Disruption Exchange, who is internationally respected for her groundbreaking work on the effect everyday chemicals, and specifically chemicals used in fracking, have on children.
- Doug Shields, former Pittsburgh city councilman who led the ban of natural gas drilling in his city in 2010 and the Pittsburgh City Council unanimously said "no" to fracking in their city and passed their Bill of Rights.
- Weston Wilson, 31-year veteran of the EPA, who sought protection under the federal Whistleblower Protection Act because the 2004 EPA study on hydraulic fracturing was tainted and the conclusions unsupported. Five of the seven Peer Review Panel had some association to the gas and oil industry.
- Dr. Raina Rippel, Director of the Southwest PA Environmental Health Project where their mission is to support people "who believe their health has been or could be impacted by natural gas drilling activities." They opened their facility in February 2012. All their services are free and funded by the Heinz Endowments, the Pittsburgh Foundation and the Claneil Foundation.
- Dr. Sandra Steingraber, internationally recognized as an authority on the environmental links to cancer and human health, believes "hydrofracking is the environmental issue of our time."

Call your lender if a gas and oil well is on your property or close to your property and inquire as to how this will impact your home value or approval of a mortgage.

A friend who resides in North Royalton recently had his home reappraised due to 5-7 wells near his home. The result: His home value decreased from \$310,000 to \$270,000 solely due to the wells.

Finally, Broadview Heights is not the only city who does not want drilling in their backyards.

And so, if MADION has "fooled the voters of Broadview Heights and made them fearful" as Mayor Alai stated, why have so many U.S. cities (Buffalo, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Wellsville, etc.), states (New Jersey, Vermont), and countless countries (Canada, France, Ireland, Romania, etc.) banned or have a moratorium on fracking?



# News Clips Report

I believe the residents of Broadview Heights are intelligent, pragmatic individuals not fooled nor guided by fear.

Knowledge is key . . . and when you know better, you do better. So please, do your own research on this topic . . .there is an abundance of information.

# News Clips Report

**The Oil Drum | Drumbeat: January 21, 2013**  
**TheOilDrum.com**

**01/21/2013**

The next time "fracking is no problem" comes up as a topic, a bet of methane for the debate:

<http://www.desmogblog.com/2013/01/16/breaking-obama-epa-shut-down-weatherford>

That report, according to the AP, would have explicitly linked methane migration to hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in Weatherford, a city with 25,000+ citizens located in the heart of the Barnett Shale geologic formation 30 minutes from Dallas.

Another datum:

This isn't the first time Thyne's scientific research has been shoved aside, either. Thyne wrote two landmark studies on groundwater contamination in Garfield County, CO, the first showing that it existed, the second confirming that the contamination was directly linked to fracking in the area.

(say it ain't so Joe - reports suppressed that would limit resource conversion into energy for human consumption?)

Log in or register to leave a comment

What? Those folks out there in the country are complaining about the FREE NAT GAS which the frackers are letting them have? Don't they know that they can heat their water for free with that gas? They might even be able to heat their houses with that FREE GAS. Just add a tank to the water line to capture all that FREE GAS before they pump the water into their homes. So what's the problem? Hey, with a bit of extra plumbing, they could burn that BENZENE with their car's fuel!!!

{/sarc}

E. Swanson

# News Clips Report

## **Fracking bubbles over: EPA changing course after gas company protests** **WaterWorld - Online**

**01/21/2013**

WEATHERFORD - When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun bubbling like Champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: A company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas.

At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010, that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why.

Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing. Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Hydraulic fracturing - often called "fracking" - allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe.

Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site - now owned by Legend Natural Gas - in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with

# News Clips Report

safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing.

"They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done."

The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction."

After the agency dropped its action, the company offered scientists access to a site in southwestern Pennsylvania. But the EPA has not yet accepted the offer.

Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas.

Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation." Two of the wells included in Thyne's report had water containing more than the 10 milligrams per liter of methane, or enough to be deemed hazardous by the EPA. One had 35 milligrams per liter, which Jackson called "particularly high" and an amount that federal regulators say is more than what requires immediate action.

"Two of the homes had methane within the action level for hazard mitigation, one of them well above this hazard threshold," Jackson said.

Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move.

"This has been total hell," Lipsky said. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life."

The confidential report relied on a type of testing known as isotopic analysis, which produces a unique chemical fingerprint that sometimes allows researchers to trace the origin of gas or oil.

Jackson, who studies hydraulic fracturing and specializes in isotopic analysis, acknowledged that more data is needed to determine for certain where the gas came from. But even if the gas came from elsewhere, Range Resources' drilling could have contributed to the problem in Lipsky's water because gas migrates, he added.

# News Clips Report

The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said.

In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry.

Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview.

Gas has always been in the water in that area, Poole said. And years before Range Resources began drilling, at least one water well in the neighborhood contained so much methane, it went up in flames.

At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009.

Jackson said it was "unrealistic" to suggest that people could have tainted water and not notice.

"It bubbles like Champagne or mineral waters," he said. "The notion that people would have wells and have this in their water and not see this is wrong."

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# News Clips Report

**50 min 10 What the Frack is the Holdup on Fracking in New York? energy Empire state debates whether to exploit oil and gas reserves  
www.topix.com**

**01/21/2013**

What the Frack is the Holdup on Fracking in New York?

Empire state debates whether to exploit oil and gas reserves

Will New York become the next boom state that 42 percent of New Yorkers want, or will fear and willful ignorance close the door on potential decades of prosperity?

That's the question Governor Andrew Cuomo and the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) are currently weighing.

The State of New York put a moratorium on fracking in 2008 to give regulators time for gathering and studying data on the process, which environmentalists claim pollutes drinking water and causes other environmental hazards. Fracking, or hydraulic fracturing, is a drilling process used to extract oil and gas from shale formations deep below the surface.

New York's potential for fracking good fortune

New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Ohio sit atop oil and gas reserves trapped deep in the Marcellus shale formation. The most productive sections of the Marcellus shale are found in Pennsylvania and New York. Unlike New York, Pennsylvania has been cashing in on its good fortune, allowing oil and gas companies to use fracking. The natural gas industry alone has invested more than \$4 billion in Pennsylvania leases, land acquisitions and infrastructure development, creating 13,500 direct and indirect jobs in 2009 and expecting to create as many as 211,000 jobs. Penn State has estimated that the gas industry generates a value-added increase in spending of more than \$1 billion in Pennsylvania, and contributed more than \$1 billion in state and local taxes.

New York homeowners could enjoy the same embarrassment of riches, receiving \$5,000 per acre, plus royalties of 12 percent to 20 percent, by leasing land to gas companies, and the state could reap more than \$1 billion in state and local tax revenues from natural gas drilling, according to the Manhattan Institute. It's no wonder that a recent poll by Siena College revealed that about 42 percent of New Yorkers support fracking (36 percent oppose it).

Some fracking facts

Fracking has been fraught with controversy, exacerbated by a seeming dearth of credible data about the health and environmental impacts of the practice. (There are loads of studies, many from highly respected universities, but opponents persist in perpetuating their unsubstantiated claims.) The EPA began a new study in November of 2011 for precisely that reason, having found that other studies conducted to date are inconclusive, incomplete or have come under scrutiny for suspected industry influence.

It's likely that no matter what the new EPA study finds, fracking's detractors will not be satisfied. Undoubtedly, they assume that the oil industry is pursuing profit at the expense of environmental safety, but they're conveniently overlooking the fact that safe and "green" fracking practices, such as better methane capture, adoption of techniques that use less water, and recycling, can actually increase oil company profits.

Too late for the public comment period, but perhaps in time for the DEC's deliberations, a documentary investigating the

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claims, "FrackNation," will hit cable network AXS Jan. 22. I encourage all concerned and curious about the true facts on fracking to tune in, and then decide for yourselves: should New York count its gas and oil blessings all the way to the bank or let fear and a knee-jerk negative response to "big oil" keep it from greater economic prosperity?

Guest Post by Chris Faulkner, Founder, President and CEO of Breitling Oil and Gas. Advisor to the ECF Asia Shale Committee and member of the Board of Directors for the North Texas Commission.

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## **EPA changed course after oil company protested** **WJTV-TV - Online**

**01/21/2013**

By: RAMIT PLUSHNICK-MASTI | Associated Press

WEATHERFORD, Texas --

WEATHERFORD, Texas (AP) When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun "bubbling" like champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: An oil company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas.

At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why.

Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing. Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers of his well, which he says contains so much methane that gas coming from the water in a garden hose attached to the well head can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Hydraulic fracturing often called "fracking" allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe.

Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site now owned by Legend Natural Gas in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling



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Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing.

"They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done."

The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction."

Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas.

Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation."

Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move.

"This has been total hell," Lipsky said. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life."

The confidential report relied on a type of testing known as isotopic analysis, which produces a unique chemical fingerprint that sometimes allows researchers to trace the origin of gas or oil.

Jackson, who studies hydraulic fracturing and specializes in isotopic analysis, acknowledged that more data is needed to determine for certain where the gas came from. But even if the gas came from elsewhere, Range Resources' drilling could have contributed to the problem in Lipsky's water because gas migrates, he added.

The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said.

In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two

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formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry.

Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview.

Gas has always been in the water in that area, Poole said. And years before Range Resources began drilling, at least one water well in the neighborhood contained so much methane, it went up in flames.

At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009.

Jackson said it was "unrealistic" to suggest that people could have tainted water and not notice.

"It bubbles like champagne or mineral waters," he said. "The notion that people would have wells and have this in their water and not see this is wrong."

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Dallas, Allen Breed in Raleigh, N.C., and Michael Rubinkam in Allentown, Pa., contributed to this report.

Plushnick-Masti can be followed on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RamitMastiAP>

# News Clips Report

## Who's afraid of fracking? Enter Stage Right

01/20/2013

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Who's afraid of fracking?

By

Deroy Murdock

web posted January 21, 2013

If frackophobes are to be believed, natural-gas fracking is the most frightful environmental nightmare since Japan's Fukushima nuclear-power plant melted down amid an earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

In *Promised Land*, Matt Damon's new anti-fracking film funded by the United Arab Emirates, one character demonstrates this production technique's "dangers" by drenching a toy farm with household chemicals and then setting it ablaze.

In the upcoming pro-fracking film, *FrackNation*, one Pennsylvania homeowner absurdly claims that fracking polluted his well water with weapons-grade uranium. (For details, watch AXS-TV on Tuesday, January 22, at 9 p.m. EST.)

In an agitprop poster from the group New Yorkers Against Fracking, the Statue of Liberty furiously topples natural-gas drilling towers with her torch as energy-company big rigs flee in horror.

These warnings might be believable if fracking regulators seemed even slightly worried. Instead, federal and state environmental officials appear positively serene about hydraulic fracturing, a decades-old technology that uses sand and chemically treated water to shatter shale deposits 5,000 to 8,000 feet below the water table and liberate natural gas from the ruptured rocks.

"In no case have we made a definitive determination that the fracking process has caused chemicals to enter groundwater," Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa Jackson stated last April. In May 2011, she told the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: "I'm not aware of any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water."

The EPA tested drinking water in Dimock, Pa., which ecologists claim fracking has tainted. "EPA has determined that there are not levels of contaminants present that would require additional action by the Agency," it concluded last July. Regional administrator Shawn M. Garvin added: "The Agency has used the best available scientific data to provide clarity to Dimock residents and address their concerns about the safety of their drinking water."

"A study that examined the water quality of 127 shallow domestic wells in the Fayetteville Shale natural-gas production area of Arkansas found no groundwater contamination associated with gas production," the U.S. Geological Survey announced Wednesday. "Methane is the primary component of natural gas," the report observed. "What methane was found in the water, taken from domestic wells, was either naturally occurring, or could not be attributed to natural gas production activities." USGS director Marcia McNutt elaborated: "This new study is important in terms of finding no significant effects on groundwater quality from shale gas development within the area of sampling."

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"Significant adverse impacts on human health are not expected from routine HVHF," or high-volume hydraulic fracturing, according to a February 2012 preliminary report from New York's Department of Environmental Conservation. Governor Andrew Cuomo (D., N.Y.) has pondered this issue since 2010 and promises further contemplation, including another draft of what DEC now calls an "outdated summary."

"New York would be crazy not to lift the moratorium" against fracking, former governor Ed Rendell (D., Pa.) told the New York Post in November. The former chairman of the Democratic National Committee continued: "I told Governor Cuomo I would come to testify before any legislative committee. . . . It's a good thing to do."

"I do find it stunningly hypocritical to buy gas that comes from fracking wells somewhere [else] in the U.S. and then say fracking is bad," John Hanger, Rendell's former secretary of environmental protection, remarked in the Post. "If you're saying no to gas, you're saying yes to more coal and oil." Hanger, a Keystone State Democratic gubernatorial contender, lately lauded the benefits of gas fracking:

Using more natural gas has slashed US carbon emissions and toxic air pollution — lead, mercury, arsenic, soot — in the nation's air by displacing large amounts of coal and oil. That cleaner air saves thousands of lives every year. And no nation in the world has cut its carbon emissions more than the US since 2006. Indeed, thanks in substantial part to shale gas, US carbon emissions are back to 1995 levels and fell about another 4 percent in 2012.

"We have never had any cases of groundwater contamination from hydraulic fracturing," Elizabeth Ames Jones said in 2011. The then-chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, which supervises natural gas, added: "It is geologically impossible for fracturing fluid to reach an aquifer a thousand feet above."

"We have drilled 3,500 wells in Arkansas and explored every complaint of a compromised well," Lawrence Bengal, director of the state's Oil and Gas Commission, noted in 2011. "We have found no fracturing fluid in any of those well complaints."

While California last month unveiled new disclosure and monitoring rules for fracking, Tim Kustic, the Golden State's oil-and-gas supervisor, told the San Jose Mercury News: "There is no evidence of harm from fracking in groundwater in California at this point in time. And it has been going on for many years."

"We've used hydraulic fracturing for some 60 years in Oklahoma, and we have no confirmed cases where it is responsible for drinking water contamination — nor do any of the other natural gas-producing states," Bob Anthony, chairman of the state's public-utilities commission, wrote in August 2010.

"In the 41 years that I have supervised oil and gas exploration, production, and development in South Dakota, no documented case of water-well or aquifer damage by the fracking of oil or gas wells, has been brought to my attention," said the Department of Environment's Fred Steece. "Nor am I aware of any such cases before my time." Steece commented in a June 2009 New York DEC document that cites regulators from 15 states who identified zero examples of fracking-related water pollution.

"Facts matter," says Robert Bryce, a Manhattan Institute senior fellow and author of four books on energy. "Over the past six decades, the fracturing process has been used more than 1 million times on American oil and gas wells. If it were as dangerous as the anti-drilling/anti-hydraulic fracturing crowd claims, then hundreds, perhaps thousands, of water wells would have been contaminated by now. That hasn't happened." Adds Bryce, who also appears in FrackNation: "The simple truth is that the shale revolution is the best possible news for the U.S. economy, and it's coming at a time when good economic news is desperately needed."

The officials quoted here are neither gas-company executives nor petro-publicists. These are public servants who oversee this industry, and many work or have worked for red-tape-loving Democrats. Nonetheless, they are unafraid of

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fracking. Clearly, frackophobes have nothing to offer but fear itself.

New York commentator Deroy Murdock is a Fox News contributor, a nationally syndicated columnist with the Scripps Howard News Service, and a media fellow with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution, and Peace at Stanford University. This article first appeared on National Review Online (NationalReview.com)

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## **Fracking bubbles over: EPA changing course after gas company protests Electric Light and Power**

**01/20/2013**

WEATHERFORD - When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun bubbling like Champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: A company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas.

At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010, that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why.

Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing. Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Hydraulic fracturing - often called "fracking" - allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe.

Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site - now owned by Legend Natural Gas - in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with

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safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing.

"They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done."

The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction."

After the agency dropped its action, the company offered scientists access to a site in southwestern Pennsylvania. But the EPA has not yet accepted the offer.

Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas.

Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation." Two of the wells included in Thyne's report had water containing more than the 10 milligrams per liter of methane, or enough to be deemed hazardous by the EPA. One had 35 milligrams per liter, which Jackson called "particularly high" and an amount that federal regulators say is more than what requires immediate action.

"Two of the homes had methane within the action level for hazard mitigation, one of them well above this hazard threshold," Jackson said.

Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move.

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The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said.

In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry.

Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview.

Gas has always been in the water in that area, Poole said. And years before Range Resources began drilling, at least one water well in the neighborhood contained so much methane, it went up in flames.

At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009.

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## **The follies of the frackophobes New York Post - Online**

**01/20/2013**

Deroy Murdock

If frackophobes are to be believed, natural-gas fracking is the most frightful environmental nightmare since Japan's Fukushima nuclear power plant melted down after an earthquake and tsunami.

In "Promised Land," Matt Damon's new anti-fracking movie, one character demonstrates this production technique's "dangers" by drenching a toy farm with household chemicals and then setting it ablaze.

In the new pro-fracking film, "Fracknation," one Pennsylvania homeowner absurdly claims that fracking polluted his well water with weapons-grade uranium.

In a New Yorkers Against Fracking agitprop poster, the Statue of Liberty furiously topples natural-gas-drilling towers with her torch as energy company 18-wheelers flee in horror.

These warnings might be believable if fracking regulators seemed even slightly worried. Instead, federal and state environmental officials appear positively serene about hydraulic fracturing, a decades-old technology that uses sand and chemically treated water to shatter shale deposits far below the water table and liberate natural gas from the ruptured rocks.

\* "In no case have we made a definitive determination that the fracking process has caused chemicals to enter groundwater," Environmental Protection Agency chief Lisa Jackson said last April. In May 2011, she testified on Capitol Hill: "I'm not aware of any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water."

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Plushnick-Masti can be followed on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RamitMastiAP>

# News Clips Report

## **VOGE: EPA owes Wyoming an explanation** **Casper Star-Tribune - Online**

**01/20/2013**

VOGE: EPA owes Wyoming an explanation

2013-01-20T11:30:00Z 2013-01-19T16:05:18Z VOG: EPA owes Wyoming an explanation

By ADAM VOG

Star-Tribune energy reporter

Casper Star-Tribune Online

It's been the main event on Wyoming's energy and environmental fight card for at least a year now.

Standing in the blue corner, from Washington, D.C., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, armed with a December 2011 report tentatively linking hydraulic fracturing to groundwater contamination in west-central Wyoming.

In the red corner, from Calgary, Alberta, Canada, Encana Oil and Gas. The company claims that the EPA's investigation of the area is unfocused, poorly executed and rushed.

The Pavillion fight has gone its 12 rounds with little resolution. So far, each judge's scorecard is different. But as we rounded a corner into 2013, the final bell appeared to be on the horizon.

A peer review panel was expected go over the data in January, and many hoped the panel would produce a firm answer about whether hydraulic fracturing, an oil and gas production technique in which producers pump water, sand and chemicals into the ground to break open rock and free up resources, had contaminated the area's groundwater.

But now we're facing another 12 rounds, and the EPA owes Wyoming an explanation.

If you missed it, the federal agency extended the comment period on its Pavillion groundwater contamination study earlier this month. The agency pushed back until September a deadline that would have likely been followed by the long-awaited peer review of EPA and U.S. Geological Survey data collected in the Pavillion Gas Field over about a two-year period.

The deadline extension followed a similar decision in October, when the EPA pushed back the comment deadline to allow more time for comments on new data.

Back then, such a decision seemed logical. The USGS data had barely been part of the report, and most people likely wouldn't have had time to go over it and submit a comment.

But the most recent delay doesn't seem as logical. The EPA has since said it wanted to allow more time for comments. It also said, in a prepared statement, that it will continue "outreach activities" including meeting with stakeholders and adding technical information to its previous report. The agency will also "take into account new data, further stakeholder input, and public comment as it continues to review the status of the Pavillion investigation and considers options for moving forward."

There's nothing wrong with being thorough. In this case, it's advisable. Reputations of companies and individuals hang in

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the balance.

But when the comment period expires in September, the agency will have accepted input on its draft report for a grand total of 21 months. In that time, landowners with bad water, a company with a red dot on its record and several state agencies have waited for an answer, and none have gotten it. That's too long to wait.

Maybe the EPA has in recent months discovered an unanswered question or set of data missing from its report. Maybe without that information, the investigation isn't complete.

But if that's the case, the agency needs to come out and say it. It's too easy, given the agency's previous statements, for detractors to wonder aloud if the agency is only stalling. Too many people are waiting, and most are frustrated.

There may only be two fighters in this bout, but plenty of others have taken a punch.

Every fight must end some time. And every fight has a winner and loser. It's time to ring the bell.

Reach energy reporter Adam Voge at 307-266-0561, or at [adam.voge@trib.com](mailto:adam.voge@trib.com). Read his blog at [trib.com/news/opinion/blogs/boom](http://trib.com/news/opinion/blogs/boom) or follow him on Twitter [@vogeCST](https://twitter.com/vogeCST).

Recommendations

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## **Fracking, integrity of EPA targeted Hutchinson News - Online**

**01/20/2013**

Two arrests made in Westphal burglary

Yoder's belief is to never forget where you come from

Kan. woman raising 3 boys orphaned by violence

Pollard's barrenness saddens photographer, but also bears fruit

Fracking, integrity of EPA targeted

By Ramit Plushnick-Masti - Associated Press

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At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why.

Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a fracking operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Fracking allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

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State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010 because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into fracking. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

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Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation." Two of the wells included in Thyne's report had water containing more than the 10 milligrams per liter of methane, or enough to be deemed hazardous by the EPA. One had 35 milligrams per liter, which Jackson called "particularly high" and an amount that federal regulators say is more than what requires immediate action.

"Two of the homes had methane within the action level for hazard mitigation, one of them well above this hazard threshold," Jackson said.

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# News Clips Report

## **EPA backs off fracking complaint after oil company protest** **Daily Herald - Online**

**01/20/2013**

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For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers of his well, which he says contains so much methane that gas coming from the water in a garden hose attached to the well head can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

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# News Clips Report

## **EPA changed course after company protest | Tulsa World Tulsa World - Online**

**01/20/2013**

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EPA changed course after company protest

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Steve Lipsky demonstrates how his well water ignites when he puts a flame to the flowing well spigot outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas. Associated Press file

By AP Wire Service

Published: 1/20/2013 2:29 AM

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Original Print Headline: EPA changed course after protest

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# News Clips Report

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More data needed

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The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling.

# News Clips Report

## **EPA changed course after gas company protested** **News-Star - Online, The**

**01/20/2013**

Contaminated water is still undrinkable

In this Nov. 26, 2012 photo, Steve Lipsky demonstrates how his well water ignites when he puts a flame to the flowing well spigot outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press. The EPA's decision to roll back its initial claim that hydraulic fracturing operations had contaminated the water is the latest case in which the federal agency initially linked drilling to water contamination and then softened its position, drawing criticism from Republicans and industry officials who insisted they proved the agency was inefficient and too quick to draw conclusions. / (AP Photo/LM Otero)

WEATHERFORD, Texas When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun bubbling like champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: A company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas.

At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why.

Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing. Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Hydraulic fracturing often called "fracking" allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe.

Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas,

# News Clips Report

Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site now owned by Legend Natural Gas in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing.

"They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done."

The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction."

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The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates that its gas well was working properly and that the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said.

In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry.

Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA.

or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview.

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At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009.

Jackson said it was "unrealistic" to suggest that people could have tainted water and not notice.

"It bubbles like champagne or mineral waters," he said. "The notion that people would have wells and have this in their water and not see this is wrong."

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Dallas, Allen Breed in Raleigh, N.C., and Michael Rubinkam in Allentown, Pa., contributed to this report.

Plushnick-Masti can be followed on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RamitMastiAP>

# News Clips Report

## **Fracking bubbles over: EPA changing course after gas company protests Abilene Reporter-News - Online**

**01/20/2013**

By Ramit Plushnick-Masti Associated Press

Posted January 19, 2013 at 10 p.m.

Associated Press Water flowing from Steve Lipsky's well ignites when he puts a flame to the well spigot outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas, in November 2012. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press. The EPA's decision to roll back its initial claim that hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," operations had contaminated the water is the latest case in which the federal agency initially linked drilling to water contamination and then softened its position, drawing criticism from Republicans and industry officials who insisted they proved the agency was inefficient and too quick to draw conclusions.

Associated Press A well vent burns as water flows from Steve Lipsky's well outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas, in November 2012. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press. The EPA's decision to roll back its initial claim that hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," operations had contaminated the water is the latest case in which the federal agency initially linked drilling to water contamination and then softened its position, drawing criticism from Republicans and industry officials who insisted they proved the agency was inefficient and too quick to draw conclusions.

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Associated Press Steve Lipsky pauses during an interview at his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas, in November 2012. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press.

Associated Press This aerial photo shows a natural gas well in rural Parker County near Granbury, Texas, in December 2012.

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The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

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Hydraulic fracturing — often called "fracking" — allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

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Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site — now owned by Legend Natural Gas — in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

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Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

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Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas.

Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation." Two of the wells included in Thyne's report had water containing more than the 10 milligrams per liter of methane, or enough to be deemed hazardous by the EPA. One had 35 milligrams per liter, which Jackson called "particularly high" and an amount that federal regulators say is more than what requires immediate action.

"Two of the homes had methane within the action level for hazard mitigation, one of them well above this hazard threshold," Jackson said.

Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move.

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# News Clips Report

## **EPA changed course after protest Tulsa World**

**01/20/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste Scotch Plains-Fanwood Patch**

**01/19/2013**

Yesterday the one year moratorium on natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New Jersey has come to end. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking within the state to a one year suspension. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the drilling process itself and the wastes produced by fracking.

As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

The expiration of the fracking moratorium comes four months after the Governor vetoed the fracking waste ban bill. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey as instate facilities have already been documented as accepting fracking wastewater, sludges, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep the toxic waste from being disposed of in New Jersey. With the expiration of the moratorium, overriding the Governor's veto of this bill is the first action the Legislature should take in advancing protections for New Jerseyans against fracking.

Fracking waste contains hundreds of contaminants, including dangerous chemicals and radioactive compounds. By an exemption from federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose all the chemicals used in the process, and with these unknown additives it is impossible to know the full threat fracking waste presents or how to fully and safely treat the waste. Toxic pollutants that reside in the deep gas-bearing rock are dislodged and regurgitated by the fracking process, adding even more health hazards to the waste that is produced – a chemical stew that even the federal government hasn't figured out how to safely treat. The Frack Waste Ban Bill would have prevented fracking waste from being discharged, treated and disposed of in New Jersey.

Jim Walsh of Food & Water Watch reminded us all how important action on fracking waste and fracking is in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He noted, "Hurricane Sandy provides us a grim reminder of why we need to move away from extreme energy sources like fracking that are perpetuating climate change while threatening drinking water, public health, and the environment. Christie had two opportunities to lead New Jersey away from this risky and dangerous industry, but instead he caved to pressure from the oil and gas companies, vetoing New Jersey's fracking waste ban and New Jersey's permanent ban on fracking. We need the legislature to move and lead where the Governor continues to fail by overriding the Governor's veto of the fracking waste ban and then moving to ban fracking permanently in New Jersey."

During Hurricane Sandy over 20% of New Jersey's wastewater treatment facilities failed, spewing raw and partially treated waste into New Jersey's waterways. Stormwater can also flood the pipes entering treatment plants causing combined sewer overflows with hazardous materials entering waterways. If we allow fracking waste to be dumped and treated in New Jersey that waste could also potentially be discharged without proper treatment, reaching our waterways

# News Clips Report

in such ways during a weather event. This is especially dangerous in light of a recent Stony Brook University study that found that the biggest threat to drinking water supplies from the fracking process came from the disposal of waste water.

The New Jersey Environmental Federation's Dave Pringle addressed fracking's climate change impacts stating, "Fracking will increase our addiction to dirty fossil fuels. We don't want its spoils in our water, its exhaust in our lungs, and its contribution climate disruption no the least of which is more frequent and severe weather like Sandy.

In his conditional veto of the ban bill, Governor Christie directed the DEP to investigate the adverse air and water impacts of fracking but there is no final deadline for the report. Environmental groups have criticized the DEP's fracking study due to its lack of transparency. There have been no public hearings or public involvement in the investigation. No study scope was announced. The state study is being done while the US EPA continues to examine fracking through a very public process, with their results and recommendations expected in 2014.

At the event Michael Pisauro with NJ Environmental Lobby addressed these problems with the DEP report saying, "This administration started with a promise of transparency and bipartisanship. On the issue of fracking this administration has failed. It failed to act in a bipartisan manner when it vetoed the fracking ban and the fracking waste ban the last year. It has been anything but transparent in its development of the fracking study. NJ deserves clean water and a healthy environment both which are put in jeopardy by the administration's failure to act in the best interest of the state."

Governor Christie has failed to protect the people of New Jersey from the dangers of fracking. Instead of having a ban on the drilling practice, we are seeing the moratorium end. Instead of stopping the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey, the Governor vetoed the bill. We deserve stronger leadership on this issue and better protections in place, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy which showed just how vulnerable our treatment plants and landfills are. The first step to better protecting ourselves from fracking is overriding veto on the fracking waste ban.

[http://scotchplains.patch.com/blog\\_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media\\_attachments/edit?upload\\_started=1358627450](http://scotchplains.patch.com/blog_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media_attachments/edit?upload_started=1358627450)

# News Clips Report

## **EPA changed course after gas company protested Lake Wylie Pilot - Online**

**01/19/2013**

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Slideshow

AP Photo - In this Nov. 27, 2012 photo, water flowing from Steve Lipsky's well ignites when he puts a flame to the well spigot outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press. The EPA's decision to roll back its initial claim that hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, operations had contaminated the water is the latest case in which the federal agency initially linked drilling to water contamination and then softened its position, drawing criticism from Republicans and industry officials who insisted they proved the agency was inefficient and too quick to draw conclusions.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Hydraulic fracturing - often called "fracking" - allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe.



# News Clips Report

Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site - now owned by Legend Natural Gas - in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing.

"They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done."

The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction."

After the agency dropped its action, the company offered scientists access to a site in southwestern Pennsylvania. But the EPA has not yet accepted the offer.

Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas.

Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation." Two of the wells included in Thyne's report had water containing more than the 10 milligrams per liter of methane, or enough to be deemed hazardous by the EPA. One had 35 milligrams per liter, which Jackson called "particularly high" and an amount that federal regulators say is more than what requires immediate action.

"Two of the homes had methane within the action level for hazard mitigation, one of them well above this hazard threshold," Jackson said.

# News Clips Report

Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move.

"This has been total hell," Lipsky said. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life."

The confidential report relied on a type of testing known as isotopic analysis, which produces a unique chemical fingerprint that sometimes allows researchers to trace the origin of gas or oil.

Jackson, who studies hydraulic fracturing and specializes in isotopic analysis, acknowledged that more data is needed to determine for certain where the gas came from. But even if the gas came from elsewhere, Range Resources' drilling could have contributed to the problem in Lipsky's water because gas migrates, he added.

The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said.

In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry.

Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview.

Gas has always been in the water in that area, Poole said. And years before Range Resources began drilling, at least one water well in the neighborhood contained so much methane, it went up in flames.

At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009.

Jackson said it was "unrealistic" to suggest that people could have tainted water and not notice.

"It bubbles like champagne or mineral waters," he said. "The notion that people would have wells and have this in their water and not see this is wrong."

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Dallas, Allen Breed in Raleigh, N.C., and Michael Rubinkam in Allentown, Pa., contributed to this report.

Plushnick-Masti can be followed on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RamitMastiAP>

# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013**

**Collegiate Presswire - Online**

**01/19/2013**

LYNNFIELD, MA--(Marketwire - Jan 18, 2013) - American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced that its CEO, Lyle Jensen, will speak at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013 to discuss the Company's recent success in converting hydraulic fracturing rig pumps and oil and gas drilling rig generators to run on either liquefied natural gas (LNG), well-head gas or pipeline gas and diesel fuel. The seminar is organized by Zeus Development Corporation, an information clearinghouse and consultancy for rapid-growth energy markets. The seminar will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas and American Power Group's presentation will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Please refer to <http://www.worldlngfuels.com> for further information.

### About American Power Group Corporation

American Power Group's alternative energy subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc., provides a cost-effective patented Turbocharged Natural Gas™ conversion technology for vehicular, stationary and off-road mobile diesel engines. American Power Group's dual fuel technology is a unique non-invasive energy enhancement system that converts existing diesel engines into more efficient and environmentally friendly engines that have the flexibility to run on: (1) diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas; (2) diesel fuel and compressed natural gas; (3) diesel fuel and pipeline or well-head gas; and (4) diesel fuel and bio-methane, with the flexibility to return to 100% diesel fuel operation at any time. The proprietary technology seamlessly displaces up to 80% of the normal diesel fuel consumption with the average displacement ranging from 40% to 65%. The energized fuel balance is maintained with a proprietary read-only electronic controller system ensuring the engines operate at original equipment manufacturers' specified temperatures and pressures. Installation on a wide variety of engine models and end-market applications require no engine modifications unlike the more expensive invasive fuel-injected systems in the market. See additional information at: [www.americanpowergroupinc.com](http://www.americanpowergroupinc.com).

### Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Opinions

With the exception of the historical information contained in this release, the matters described herein contain forward-looking statements and opinions, including, but not limited to, statements relating to new markets, development and introduction of new products, and financial and operating projections. These forward-looking statements and opinions are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risk and uncertainties that may individually or mutually impact the matters herein, and cause actual results, events and performance to differ materially from such forward-looking statements and opinions. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, results of future operations, difficulties or delays in developing or introducing new products and keeping them on the market, the results of future research, lack of product demand and market acceptance for current and future products, adverse events, product changes, the effect of economic conditions, the impact of competitive products and pricing, governmental regulations with respect to emissions, including whether EPA approval will be obtained for future products and additional applications, the results of litigation, factors affecting the Company's future income and resulting ability to utilize its NOLs, and/or other factors, which are detailed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 and the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and opinions, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements and opinions that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

# News Clips Report

## Fracking debate draws Yoko, Lennon and Sarandon to rural battlegrounds Equities.com

01/19/2013

Adam Gabbatt (contributor), guardian.co.uk Guardian

Yoko Ono might not seem the most likely bus traveller. Northern Pennsylvania, on a cold, snowy January day, might not seem a likely destination.

Yet the threat of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and its impact on the farm she and John Lennon bought in New York spurred Ono and her son, Sean Lennon, into action. On Thursday the pair, a group of activists and the actress Susan Sarandon formed an improbable troupe for a road trip through towns which have been affected by fracking.

The expedition travelled under the banner of Artists Against Fracking, the group Ono and Lennon set up last summer, when governor Andrew Cuomo was originally due to rule on whether to allow fracking in New York State. Thanks no doubt to the star power of its founders, the group quickly managed to attract backing – from regular celebrity activists such as Sarandon and Mark Ruffalo to Alec Baldwin, the two living Beatles and Robert DeNiro. They also earned the support of the Scissor Sisters.

"It was an incredible response," Ono said, as the bus picked its way along narrow lanes. "All these artists are starting to come together. These days artists are very much into, and very sensitive to what is happening in society, not just what is happening with their work."

It was the potential impact of fracking on rural parts of New York State that prompted Lennon and Ono to get involved in the anti-fracking cause last summer. Cuomo eventually delayed his decision, pending further investigation into the practice; he is now due to rule on whether to allow fracking as early as 27 February, following a four-and-a-half year ban.

Ono and Lennon clambered aboard the bus – in fact a relatively luxurious coach – on Thursday as part of their bid to persuade the governor against the practice. Ono and Lennon still spend time at their rural farm, which was bought in the years before John Lennon died. While the farm might have inspired Ono to take up the cause, she said the campaign now went beyond that.

"It's not just for me, but for New York State and New York City as well. But also when we lose this game we're losing not just for New York State but for the United States and for Britain. I'm getting letters from Britain saying, 'Yoko, please do something, they're starting to frack here.'"

The pair keep secret the exact location of their farm, where Ono and John Lennon famously tended a herd of cows, but they will say that it is in prime fracking territory. The pair established Artists Against Fracking in August and organised the bus tour to show the impact fracking has had in Pennsylvania.

Fracking involves drilling a hole into shale rock deep underground, then blasting in water mixed with sand and chemicals. This creates fissures in the rock, releasing natural gas that is captured in a well at the surface. Problems can arise if the cement casing around the well-hole is inadequate, allowing chemicals to leak into water supplies. Those who support fracking say that with tougher regulation and stricter controls on the drilling process the practice is safe, although opponents argue that this is too much to risk.

'Our water was bubbling in our well'

# News Clips Report

The home of Michael and Tammy Manning in Franklin Forks was one of the bus tour's first stops – after four attempts to climb a particularly icy hill. The couple say the water in their home, which is sourced from their own well, like many homes' water supply in this region, became contaminated after fracking was carried out nearby.

"Our water was bubbling in our well. It looked like a full running boil in our well," said Tammy Manning, 45. Four generations of their family live in the house, a two-storey wood-paneled structure set in perhaps an acre of land. Video taken by Matthew Manning and shown as the anti-fracking entourage crammed into the Mannings' small living room showed water spurting out of the top of their well as from a fire hydrant. Inside the house, the water ran brown.

Pennsylvania's department of environmental protection tested the Mannings' exploding well soon after it began erupting. It found extremely high levels of methane, and told the family to keep all windows and doors open when running the taps or taking a shower – any build-up of the gas could be dangerous. The Mannings said they have received little help beyond that, and have to buy mineral water for drinking and cooking. They shower in tainted water.

"We don't want to have to leave," Tammy Manning said. "We just bought the house. But if we've no water what can we do." The reality is that the family has few options. "I don't think we can sell it with no water. We're stuck."

Supporters of fracking argue that the process can produce cheap fuel, promote energy independence and create jobs. The roads of Susquehanna County were certainly busy on Thursday, activists on the bus shouting out "sand truck" or "water truck" time and again, as heavy goods vehicles bearing the key elements of fracking passed by.

Some spoke of the tension within small towns and villages that has been caused by differing opinions over fracking. Companies pay good money for access to mineral rights, but one or two neighbours resisting the deal can deter companies from becoming involved with a whole street or community.

Representing 'the 1%'?

As the bus arrived in Dimock, where the department of environmental protection ruled in 2010 that fracking wells drilled by Cabot Oil and Gas Corp had leaked into 18 drinking wells, a man who identified himself as living locally shouted and gesticulated animatedly at the members of Activists Against Fracking as they disembarked. The man, who left before the Guardian could ask his name, insisted loudly that money from fracking had paid for his wife's cancer treatment.

He was not the only fly in the ointment. Filmmaker Phelim McAleer, a vocal critic of those opposed to fracking and something of a courier of controversy, approached the bus with a cameraman, loudly accusing Ono, Lennon and Sarandon of acting in the interests of the "1%" in their opposition to the practice.

As McAleer jogged and jostled for position, heckling Ono, Lennon and Sarandon and being heckled back by activists, the Irish filmmaker – who made the news recently after accusing Matt Damon, the actor whose new film, *Promised Land*, deals with the subject of fracking, of being a "liar" – became separated from his trilby hat, which he had to collect from the muddy slush.

McAleer shouted to the group that the drinking water in Dimock was safe, citing EPA studies that activists say are incorrect. In any case, Cabot Oil and Gas Corp agreed in December 2010 to pay a \$4.6m settlement that required it to fix its leaking wells. The Pennsylvania DEP ruled that Cabot could resume fracking near Dimock in August last year.

McAleer's arrival marked the only time Ono took advantage of a large V12 Mercedes-Benz which an aide drove behind the coach for the entire trip, and which might raise some questions over the environmental soundness of the exercise. Ono got into the back of the black car as McAleer made himself known nearby, later popping her head out of the window to check all was clear before clambering back on to the bus for the ride home.

# News Clips Report

'I'm not an activist by nature'

Artists Against Fracking have already given Cuomo plenty to consider ahead of his February ruling. In addition to the clutch of celebrity supporters, the group and other anti-fracking organisations collected 200,000 messages during a 30-day public consultation period in December and January. Ono and Lennon helped to deliver the messages to the governor in Albany on 11 January.

The campaign could have an impact in New Jersey too. The Garden State's year-long moratorium on fracking expired on Thursday, and governor Chris Christie is due to make an announcement on the immediate future of the process before the end of the month.

"I'm not an activist by nature, I'm a musician. What I'm interested in is making music and art," Lennon said on the bus. "I had no desire to be spending any of my time researching things like benzene, methane and uranium and well-pits and well-casings and what percentage of well-casings fail over how many years."

Lennon said he had been moved by the stories of people who face having to leave their homes because of a lack of clean water, but like those people, he had the sense of a personal threat. His family's farm draws fresh water, unfiltered, from its own well, just like the Mannings' house and the homes in Dimock. To Lennon, fracking poses a risk to the farm at which he can remember spending time with his father as a young boy.

"It would actually change my life," he said. "I think on some level I might have to consider leaving. I'm so into nature and the country, and having a place in the country where I could drink my own water was really essential to my feeling safe, it means a lot to me. So if that changes, I might leave."

Lennon said he was unsure if he would leave New York, or leave the US entirely – he has both American and British passports and describes himself as an Anglophile. "But I don't want to be in a place where I feel like I can't drink clean water," he said.

# News Clips Report

**Md.'s budget includes shale study funds &#187;Homepage &#187;Cumberland Times-News  
Cumberland Times-News - Online**

**01/18/2013**

Homepage

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In this Nov. 27, 2012 photo, water flowing from Steve Lipsky's well ignites when he puts a flame to the well spigot outside his family's home in rural Parker County near Weatherford, Texas. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency had evidence a gas company's drilling operation contaminated Lipsky's drinking water with explosive methane, and possibly cancer-causing chemicals, but withdrew its enforcement action, leaving the family with no useable water supply, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press. The EPA's decision to roll back its initial claim that hydraulic fracturing, or 'fracking,' operations had contaminated the water is the latest case in which the federal agency initially linked drilling to water contamination and then softened its position, drawing criticism from Republicans and industry officials who insisted they proved the agency was inefficient and too quick to draw conclusions. (AP Photo/LM Otero)

January 17, 2013

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# News Clips Report

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Local News

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January 17, 2013

Md.'s budget includes shale study funds

\$1M to be used for drilling research

CUMBERLAND - Gov. Martin O'Malley's fiscal 2014 proposed budget includes \$1 million in funding for Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction studies. Lack of funding for the studies has slowed the work of the governor's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission.

Some members of the commission have said they want the industry to fund studies and are seeking extensive studies before any drilling occurs. Others, such as Sen. George Edwards, have maintained extensive scientific evidence is already available gathered from states where drilling has occurred.

The funding would be used for stream sampling, economic analysis and a review of the potential impacts of gas extraction on public health, said Delegate Wendell Beitzel.

Beitzel is a member of the House Appropriations Committee, which is the first committee in the General Assembly to study and approve the governor's budget, Beitzel said.

Marcellus Shale formations throughout the eastern U.S. harbor large untapped natural gas resources.

In order to get the gas trapped in the shale to the surface, chemicals, water and sand are pumped underground to break apart rock formations and free the gas. The process is called hydraulic fracturing.

The lack of studies of hydraulic fracturing - also known as "fracking" - is one of the issues those supporting a legislative moratorium on drilling have raised as a reason to halt permitting of drilling in Maryland.

A state moratorium bill, to be introduced by Delegate Heather Mizeur in the House of Delegates and others in the Senate, would prevent fracking from occurring in Maryland until the state completes the series of 14 studies laid out in O'Malley's executive order on gas drilling, which also established the advisory commission.



# News Clips Report

O'Malley's timetable calls for a final advisory commission report due in 2014; until then, no permits will be issued for drilling Marcellus Shale in the state.

Contact Matthew Bieniek at [mbieniek@times-news.com](mailto:mbieniek@times-news.com) .

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Local News

O'Malley: Stricter gun licensing

Gov. Martin O'Malley on Friday underscored the need for new licensing requirements for handguns, while a leading Maryland lawmaker recommended the provision in a comprehensive gun-control measure be considered separately due to the potential for considerable opposition.

January 18, 2013

1 Photo

# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste East Brunswick Patch**

**01/18/2013**

Yesterday the one year moratorium on natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New Jersey has come to end. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking within the state to a one year suspension. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the drilling process itself and the wastes produced by fracking.

As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

The expiration of the fracking moratorium comes four months after the Governor vetoed the fracking waste ban bill. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey as in-state facilities have already been documented as accepting fracking wastewater, sludges, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep the toxic waste from being disposed of in New Jersey. With the expiration of the moratorium, overriding the Governor's veto of this bill is the first action the Legislature should take in advancing protections for New Jerseyans against fracking.

Fracking waste contains hundreds of contaminants, including dangerous chemicals and radioactive compounds. By an exemption from federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose all the chemicals used in the process, and with these unknown additives it is impossible to know the full threat fracking waste presents or how to fully and safely treat the waste. Toxic pollutants that reside in the deep gas-bearing rock are dislodged and regurgitated by the fracking process, adding even more health hazards to the waste that is produced – a chemical stew that even the federal government hasn't figured out how to safely treat. The Frack Waste Ban Bill would have prevented fracking waste from being discharged, treated and disposed of in New Jersey.

Jim Walsh of Food & Water Watch reminded us all how important action on fracking waste and fracking is in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He noted, "Hurricane Sandy provides us a grim reminder of why we need to move away from extreme energy sources like fracking that are perpetuating climate change while threatening drinking water, public health, and the environment. Christie had two opportunities to lead New Jersey away from this risky and dangerous industry, but instead he caved to pressure from the oil and gas companies, vetoing New Jersey's fracking waste ban and New Jersey's permanent ban on fracking. We need the legislature to move and lead where the Governor continues to fail by overriding the Governor's veto of the fracking waste ban and then moving to ban fracking permanently in New Jersey."

During Hurricane Sandy over 20% of New Jersey's wastewater treatment facilities failed, spewing raw and partially treated waste into New Jersey's waterways. Stormwater can also flood the pipes entering treatment plants causing combined sewer overflows with hazardous materials entering waterways. If we allow fracking waste to be dumped and treated in New Jersey that waste could also potentially be discharged without proper treatment, reaching our waterways

# News Clips Report

in such ways during a weather event. This is especially dangerous in light of a recent Stony Brook University study that found that the biggest threat to drinking water supplies from the fracking process came from the disposal of waste water.

The New Jersey Environmental Federation's Dave Pringle addressed fracking's climate change impacts stating, "Fracking will increase our addiction to dirty fossil fuels. We don't want its spoils in our water, its exhaust in our lungs, and its contribution climate disruption no the least of which is more frequent and severe weather like Sandy.

In his conditional veto of the ban bill, Governor Christie directed the DEP to investigate the adverse air and water impacts of fracking but there is no final deadline for the report. Environmental groups have criticized the DEP's fracking study due to its lack of transparency. There have been no public hearings or public involvement in the investigation. No study scope was announced. The state study is being done while the US EPA continues to examine fracking through a very public process, with their results and recommendations expected in 2014.

At the event Michael Pisauro with NJ Environmental Lobby addressed these problems with the DEP report saying, "This administration started with a promise of transparency and bipartisanship. On the issue of fracking this administration has failed. It failed to act in a bipartisan manner when it vetoed the fracking ban and the fracking waste ban the last year. It has been anything but transparent in its development of the fracking study. NJ deserves clean water and a healthy environment both which are put in jeopardy by the administration's failure to act in the best interest of the state."

Governor Christie has failed to protect the people of New Jersey from the dangers of fracking. Instead of having a ban on the drilling practice, we are seeing the moratorium end. Instead of stopping the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey, the Governor vetoed the bill. We deserve stronger leadership on this issue and better protections in place, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy which showed just how vulnerable our treatment plants and landfills are. The first step to better protecting ourselves from fracking is overriding veto on the fracking waste ban.

[http://eastbrunswick.patch.com/blog\\_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media\\_attachments/edit?upload\\_started=1358567875](http://eastbrunswick.patch.com/blog_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media_attachments/edit?upload_started=1358567875)

# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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The New Jersey Environmental Federation's Dave Pringle addressed fracking's climate change impacts stating, "Fracking will increase our addiction to dirty fossil fuels. We don't want its spoils in our water, its exhaust in our lungs, and its contribution climate disruption no the least of which is more frequent and severe weather like Sandy.

In his conditional veto of the ban bill, Governor Christie directed the DEP to investigate the adverse air and water impacts of fracking but there is no final deadline for the report. Environmental groups have criticized the DEP's fracking study due to its lack of transparency. There have been no public hearings or public involvement in the investigation. No study scope was announced. The state study is being done while the US EPA continues to examine fracking through a very public process, with their results and recommendations expected in 2014.

At the event Michael Pisauro with NJ Environmental Lobby addressed these problems with the DEP report saying, "This administration started with a promise of transparency and bipartisanship. On the issue of fracking this administration has failed. It failed to act in a bipartisan manner when it vetoed the fracking ban and the fracking waste ban the last year. It has been anything but transparent in its development of the fracking study. NJ deserves clean water and a healthy environment both which are put in jeopardy by the administration's failure to act in the best interest of the state."

Governor Christie has failed to protect the people of New Jersey from the dangers of fracking. Instead of having a ban on the drilling practice, we are seeing the moratorium end. Instead of stopping the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey, the Governor vetoed the bill. We deserve stronger leadership on this issue and better protections in place, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy which showed just how vulnerable our treatment plants and landfills are. The first step to better protecting ourselves from fracking is overriding veto on the fracking waste ban.

[http://collingswood.patch.com/blog\\_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media\\_attachments/edit?upload\\_started=1358567458](http://collingswood.patch.com/blog_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media_attachments/edit?upload_started=1358567458)

# News Clips Report

## **Part 2: Transparency that Benefits All--Disclosing Fracturing Fluids and Operations WaterWorld - Online**

**01/18/2013**

Hydraulic Fracturing: Beyond Name Calling to Real Environmental Protection

Shale gas drilling and hydraulic fracturing issues and opportunities are often politically-charged, emotion-filled debates. There's a need to share more facts, identify data gaps and policy choices, and discuss practical steps to reduce risks. This series will bring together experts in water, energy, and conservation to explore the most important issues and disclose the most successful steps to prevent problems through each stage of the process, from locating an operation to site closure and restoration. The webinars won't be "technical" but will involve presenters with technical expertise from industry, and regulatory, policy, and environmental NGO sectors. Join us on Tuesday, January 15, for the first discussion: "Knowing Your Watershed and Assessing Potential Environmental, Economic, and Social Impacts". Ben Grumbles, president of the U.S. Water Alliance and former EPA Assistant Administrator will moderate the series.

This is a 4 part series - You will only need to provide your contact information once. Each additional webcast you will just need to enter your email address and password.

Part 1: Knowing Your Watershed and Assessing Potential Environmental, Economic, and Social Impacts - Now available for on demand viewing, please [click here](#) to view now.

Understanding the hydraulic fracturing process and the total life cycle of water involved, from beginning to end, are keys to environmental success and public acceptance. EPA will give a progress report on its comprehensive national study on risks to drinking water and a representative of state regulatory agencies and Fracfocus ([fracfocus.org](http://fracfocus.org)), the national chemical registry for fracking fluids and operations, will describe state and local efforts to increase public transparency. Participants will also discuss some of the latest developments on the policy debate between a community's right to know and an owner's right to protect "legitimate trade secrets".

Part 3: Practical Considerations for Management, Re-use, and Disposal of "Waste" Waters

Part 4: Closure and Restoration: Final Considerations

Speakers:

Ben Grumbles President U.S. Water Alliance

Michael Nickolaus Special Projects Director Groundwater Protection Council

Susan Sharkey Acting Chief of the Existing Chemicals Branch, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics Chemical Control Division, U.S. EPA

U.S. Water Alliance :

Please visit us at [uswateralliance.org](http://uswateralliance.org).

# News Clips Report

## **Frackademia: How the Fracking Industry Tries To Bully Or Buy Scientists CorpWatch**

**01/18/2013**

by Puck Lo

CorpWatch Blog

January 18th, 2013

Cartoon by Khalil Bendib

Range Resources, a Texas company, bullied the federal government into dropping a scientific report on environmental contamination caused by fracking, a new investigation by the Associated Press has just revealed. This comes on the heels of two major pro-fracking academic reports that had to be withdrawn in 2012.

Fracking, or horizontal hydraulic fracturing, is not new. Since the 1940s engineers have known about the gas and oil reserves that lie deep under subterranean layers of earth enough to power the U.S. for decades, some experts say. Developments made to drilling technology during the 1980s led to today's fracking boom across more than 31 states. Nine out of ten oil wells now employ the controversial technique, which involves drilling a mile into the earth and then pumping in millions of gallons of water, sand and hazardous chemicals to fracture rock and extract gas contained inside.

In 2007, when oil companies began aggressively drilling in the Marcellus Shale that underlies Pennsylvania, New York, West Virginia and Ohio, fracking became a national issue. Gasland, a 2010 documentary on how fracking has changed life for residents who live near drilling sites, brought to national attention the now iconic image of a man in his home, lighting contaminated tap water on fire.

Something remarkably similar happened to Steve Lipsky who lives in Fort Worth, Texas, when his family's drinking water began "bubbling" like champagne back in 2010. Lipsky was able to get the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to issue an emergency order against Range Resources which was drilling in the area. An independent study determined that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Then the EPA changed course according to the Associated Press - when Range Resources told them that so long as the agency continued to pursue a scientifically baseless action it would withdraw from an ongoing national study on fracking and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites.

The EPA also recently backed away from reports on the environmental impact of fracking by EnCana Oil & Gas USA in the town of Pavilion, Wyoming, after industry attacks.

But the fracking industry is not content to just challenge the EPA in small towns - it is now spreading money around to pay academics to publish favorable studies on the controversial drilling practice. In the last year two major studies published by so-called frackademics that gained widespread publicity were shown to have ties to oil companies.

University of Texas

In December 2012, Raymond Orbach, head of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas, was forced to resign from

# News Clips Report

his post following revelations that a report titled Fact-Based Regulation for Environmental Protection in the Shale Gas Development published earlier in the year by the institute was based on an investigation led by Charles Chip Groat, a director of Plains Exploration & Production Company, a Houston-based oil and gas company that operates fracking and deepwater drilling sites in Texas, the Gulf Coast, and California.

Groat was identified as a University of Texas professor and former assistant director of the Energy Institute, but the report failed to acknowledge that he also held a position on the Plains Exploration board since 2007, owned \$1.6 million in company stock, and is paid \$58,500 a year .

Shale gas has lots of stories to tell ," Groat told the press at the February 2012 American Association for the Advancement of Science in Vancouver, British Columbia, where the report was unveiled. "It's a great resource for this country and many other parts of the world. It's a game-changer in terms of the energy balance."

The report said that many of the problems attributed to fracking were common to all oil and gas drilling operations and were due to mismanagement, not the practice itself. It claimed that an assessment of media representations of fracking nationally found that coverage was uniformly about two-thirds negative, while a survey of 1,500 Texas residents found a generally positive attitude toward hydraulic fracturing

Negative perceptions and political consequences have led to the prohibition of shale gas development in a number of instances, at least temporarily, the report stated.

The university widely publicized the study last February. Many news outlets trumpeted its industry-friendly findings at the time.

It is straight down the middle - done without industry funding and with the participation of the Environmental Defense Fund, a well-known watchdog organization, the Houston Chronicle editorialized. In a world where clashes between advocates for industry and the environment are frequently bitter and deeply rooted, such an approach is doubly welcome.

The tide turned against Groat when the Public Accountability Institute (PAI), a New York-based investigative research organization, released a report in May 2012 that criticized the study.

Its central claim that fracking does not cause groundwater contamination relies on a highly-specific and misleading definition of fracking , PAI stated. The university's press push around the report significantly mischaracterizes and oversimplifies its findings.

The PAI study prompted the University of Texas to commission an independent review of the study, conducted by a three-person panel of scientists and administrators from industry. The reviewers were not charged with assessing the scientific merits of the study but rather to review the university's process of producing and publicizing the report.

The panelists declared in late November that the lack of disclosure by the university about Groat's ties to the oil company constituted a clear conflict of interest. The university says it has since updated its disclosure policies, and Groat has since agreed that he should have mentioned his industry connections in the report although he defended his role. I had no responsibility to either review the report or comment on their findings or influence them in any way, Groat told the New Orleans City Business newspaper.

The review committee disagreed.

In studies of controversial topics, such as the impact on public health and the environment potentially stemming from shale gas hydraulic fracturing, credibility hinges upon full disclosure of any potential conflicts of interest by all participants



# News Clips Report

and upon rigorous, independent reviews of findings. This study failed in both regards , the independent panelists stated in their review.

The panelists also criticized the relationship of the Energy Institute and the University of Texas to the oil and gas industry and took issue with the fracking report's title.

It should be stressed that the term 'fact-based' would not apply to such an analysis in the sense characterizing scientific research since there were relatively little scientific data presented or, according to the authors, available to be presented, they added.

The committee lambasted the Energy Institute's inappropriately selective use of material that seemed to suggest that public concerns were without scientific basis and largely resulted from media bias hence requiring no significant modification in the current regulatory and enforcement regimes.

At the independent panel's recommendation, the University of Texas agreed to withdraw the study. It announced in a December 2012 press release that former Energy Institute head Orbach had resigned, and Groat had retired . Orbach has remained a tenured faculty member at the University of Texas.

State University of New York

In April 2012 the State University of New York at Buffalo (UB) announced it was opening a research institute to study hydraulic fracturing. "We're really trying to provide fact-based, objective information ," John P. Martin, an energy consultant and director of the institute, said in a press release. "We're guided by science."

Two months later the institute was shut down amid scandal. It's first and only report, Environmental Impacts During Marcellus Shale Gas Drilling , was denounced by PAI as industry-friendly propaganda. The institute's study claimed that environmental violations declined from 58.2 percent to 30.5 percent between the years 2008 and 2011 at hydrofracturing sites in Pennsylvania.

The Marcellus industry has cut its incidence of environmental violations by more than half in three years, a rather notable indicator of improvement by the industry and oversight by the regulators, the report stated. In conclusion, this study demonstrates that the odds of non-major environmental events and the much smaller odds of major environmental events are being reduced even further by enhanced regulation and improved industry practice. Moreover, the environmental impacts of most of these events have been almost completely mitigated by remedial actions taken by the companies.

Forbes magazine ran with the results and wrote an article titled:

Fracking Safety Improves Dramatically, Says Independent Study.

But according to data provided in the UB report, the number of accidents actually increased by 36 percent during that period, said PAI. Nor was the study independent. PAI criticized what they saw as strong industry ties between the fledgling institute and the oil extraction industry, noting that the institute had not yet publicized the sources of its funding. Although the university told the media initially that the study was funded with no industry support, a University at Buffalo spokesperson later said the study had been funded by the University at Buffalo Foundation, which does not have to disclose funding sources.

The report contains a number of significant errors and problems which seriously undermine its central claim : that fracking is getting safer and causing fewer environmental violations. While masquerading as independent, academic research, the report's errors all point in the direction of heavy pro-industry bias and spin, the nonprofit researchers wrote

# News Clips Report

in their report, *The UB Shale Play: Distorting the Facts about Fracking*.

PAI found that the entire sections of the report seemed to be copied and pasted, without attribution, from an industry-funded, pro-fracking report published in 2011 by the right-wing think tank, the Manhattan Institute.

The Shale Resources and Society Institute also announced in its press release that the report was peer reviewed when it had not been. The university eventually removed the peer reviewed designation from the report.

On November 19, 2012, after months of controversy and student protest, Satish Tripathi, the president of UB, said he was closing the institute because of ongoing questions over its credibility and inconsistency in disclosing its funding.

It is imperative that our faculty members adhere to rigorous standards of academic integrity, intellectual honesty, transparency and the highest ethical conduct in their work, Tripathi wrote in a letter to students and faculty.

## Watering down the Science

Next year, the EPA is due to publish the results of the now delayed national study on fracking. Environmental groups are not holding their breath. "In its inability to find a single company willing to test water quality before and after drilling and fracking, the EPA is being thwarted in perhaps the most important part of its study of fracking's impacts," Earthworks spokesman Alan Septoff said in a statement. "Computer simulations are not enough."

Back in Texas, Lipsky is still fighting a huge legal battle with Range Resources. He is also spending \$1,000 a month to pump clean water to his house. "This has been total hell," Lipsky told the Associated Press. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life."

Check out our corporate malfeasance wiki!

# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013**

**Markets.financialcontent.com**

**01/18/2013**

By: American Power Group Corporation via Marketwire News Releases

LYNNFIELD, MA -- (Marketwire) -- 01/18/13 -- American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced that its CEO, Lyle Jensen, will speak at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013 to discuss the Company's recent success in converting hydraulic fracturing rig pumps and oil and gas drilling rig generators to run on either liquefied natural gas (LNG), well-head gas or pipeline gas and diesel fuel. The seminar is organized by Zeus Development Corporation, an information clearinghouse and consultancy for rapid-growth energy markets. The seminar will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas and American Power Group's presentation will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Please refer to <http://www.worldlngfuels.com> for further information.

### About American Power Group Corporation

American Power Group's alternative energy subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc., provides a cost-effective patented Turbocharged Natural Gas conversion technology for vehicular, stationary and off-road mobile diesel engines. American Power Group's dual fuel technology is a unique non-invasive energy enhancement system that converts existing diesel engines into more efficient and environmentally friendly engines that have the flexibility to run on: (1) diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas; (2) diesel fuel and compressed natural gas; (3) diesel fuel and pipeline or well-head gas; and (4) diesel fuel and bio-methane, with the flexibility to return to 100% diesel fuel operation at any time. The proprietary technology seamlessly displaces up to 80% of the normal diesel fuel consumption with the average displacement ranging from 40% to 65%. The energized fuel balance is maintained with a proprietary read-only electronic controller system ensuring the engines operate at original equipment manufacturers' specified temperatures and pressures. Installation on a wide variety of engine models and end-market applications require no engine modifications unlike the more expensive invasive fuel-injected systems in the market. See additional information at: [www.americanpowergroupinc.com](http://www.americanpowergroupinc.com).

### Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Opinions

With the exception of the historical information contained in this release, the matters described herein contain forward-looking statements and opinions, including, but not limited to, statements relating to new markets, development and introduction of new products, and financial and operating projections. These forward-looking statements and opinions are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risk and uncertainties that may individually or mutually impact the matters herein, and cause actual results, events and performance to differ materially from such forward-looking statements and opinions. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, results of future operations, difficulties or delays in developing or introducing new products and keeping them on the market, the results of future research, lack of product demand and market acceptance for current and future products, adverse events, product changes, the effect of economic conditions, the impact of competitive products and pricing, governmental regulations with respect to emissions, including whether EPA approval will be obtained for future products and additional applications, the results of litigation, factors affecting the Company's future income and resulting ability to utilize its NOLs, and/or other factors, which are detailed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 and the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and opinions, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements and opinions that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste Point Pleasant Patch**

**01/18/2013**

Yesterday the one year moratorium on natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New Jersey has come to end. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking within the state to a one year suspension. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the drilling process itself and the wastes produced by fracking.

As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

The expiration of the fracking moratorium comes four months after the Governor vetoed the fracking waste ban bill. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey as in-state facilities have already been documented as accepting fracking wastewater, sludges, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep the toxic waste from being disposed of in New Jersey. With the expiration of the moratorium, overriding the Governor's veto of this bill is the first action the Legislature should take in advancing protections for New Jerseyans against fracking.

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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Governor Christie has failed to protect the people of New Jersey from the dangers of fracking. Instead of having a ban on the drilling practice, we are seeing the moratorium end. Instead of stopping the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey, the Governor vetoed the bill. We deserve stronger leadership on this issue and better protections in place, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy which showed just how vulnerable our treatment plants and landfills are. The first step to better protecting ourselves from fracking is overriding veto on the fracking waste ban.

[http://littlesilver.patch.com/blog\\_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media\\_attachments/edit?upload\\_started=1358552251](http://littlesilver.patch.com/blog_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media_attachments/edit?upload_started=1358552251)

# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste Springfield (N.J.) Patch**

**01/18/2013**

Yesterday the one year moratorium on natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New Jersey has come to end. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking within the state to a one year suspension. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the drilling process itself and the wastes produced by fracking.

As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

The expiration of the fracking moratorium comes four months after the Governor vetoed the fracking waste ban bill. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey as in-state facilities have already been documented as accepting fracking wastewater, sludges, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep the toxic waste from being disposed of in New Jersey. With the expiration of the moratorium, overriding the Governor's veto of this bill is the first action the Legislature should take in advancing protections for New Jerseyans against fracking.

Fracking waste contains hundreds of contaminants, including dangerous chemicals and radioactive compounds. By an exemption from federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose all the chemicals used in the process, and with these unknown additives it is impossible to know the full threat fracking waste presents or how to fully and safely treat the waste. Toxic pollutants that reside in the deep gas-bearing rock are dislodged and regurgitated by the fracking process, adding even more health hazards to the waste that is produced – a chemical stew that even the federal government hasn't figured out how to safely treat. The Frack Waste Ban Bill would have prevented fracking waste from being discharged, treated and disposed of in New Jersey.

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

**Buckle down on natural gas. - Obama and the Environment: What He Can Do: Hydraulic Fracturing ("Fracking") - MensJournal.com**  
**Men's Journal - Online**

**01/18/2013**

Buckle down on natural gas.

2 of 9

Hazlan Abdul Hakim

New extraction methods, primarily the drilling method known as "fracking," have sparked a global natural-gas boom. In 2011, more gas was produced than in any previous year, and 2012 is on target to set another record. But even this cheap, plentiful, and relatively clean fuel has significant risks, such as water contamination from toxic spills. "Too many wells do have problems, something companies vehemently deny," says Robert B. Jackson, a Duke University scientist studying drilling impacts. ( Consider the 8,000-gallon spill caused by fracking at a site in Dimock, Pennsylvania.)

Seventeen environmental groups have petitioned the EPA to require disclosure of chemicals used in fracking under the Toxics Release Inventory, an effective, decades-old program that already applies to most industries (including the coal industry). Likewise, contaminated water generated in fracking can be tightly regulated under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and Toxic Substances Control Act. "Our job isn't to promote natural gas \_ the market is doing that because the stuff is so cheap and abundant," says Fred Krupp, president of the Environmental Defense Fund and an adviser to the Secretary of Energy. "Our job is to protect air and water supplies."

# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste** **Lacey Patch**

**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013**

**Daily Herald - Online (press release)**

**01/18/2013**

By: American Power Group Corporation via Marketwire News Releases

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# News Clips Report

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**paidContent.org**

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# News Clips Report

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Governor Christie has failed to protect the people of New Jersey from the dangers of fracking. Instead of having a ban on the drilling practice, we are seeing the moratorium end. Instead of stopping the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey, the Governor vetoed the bill. We deserve stronger leadership on this issue and better protections in place, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy which showed just how vulnerable our treatment plants and landfills are. The first step to better protecting ourselves from fracking is overriding veto on the fracking waste ban.

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# News Clips Report

## Big Oil and Gas Back Attacks on 'Promised Land' Nation - Online, The

01/18/2013

Frances McDormand and Matt Damon in Promised Land.

Promised Land, the Matt Damon fracking movie recently released nationwide, has had somewhat of a lukewarm critical reception. But it's definitely getting bad reviews from the natural gas industry.

The film, in which Damon plays an energy company representative trying to convince small-town farmers to lease their land for fracking, is the target of a ongoing misinformation campaign by natural gas industry-backed groups. The organizations, which bill themselves as independent and broad-based, are bankrolled by some of the biggest names in oil and gas, and have a history of bashing organizations and initiatives that question the safety of fracking, an environmentally hazardous process that involves blasting millions of gallons of water, sand and industrial chemicals into shale wells to fracture rock and push out oil and gas.

Even though Promised Land, directed by Gus Van Sant and produced by Focus Features, doesn't spook the industry as much as Gasland, the 2010 Josh Fox documentary about the eco-damage natural gas drilling can do, gas companies are not taking any chances. Back in October, The Wall Street Journal reported that "the energy industry already [was] preparing for battle," with the Independent Petroleum Association of America, an association of energy producers, planning to distribute pro-fracking flyers at movie theaters, send out scientific studies to film reviewers and launch a social media campaign.

Energy in Depth, a PR group created by IPAA set up a website, called "The Real Promised Land," where readers are treated to pronouncements on the environmental safety and economic potential of fracking by, among others, President Obama and outgoing EPA chief Lisa Jackson, who is quoted as saying that "in no case have we made a definitive determination that the [fracturing process] has caused chemicals to enter groundwater." (A large body of research, by the likes of the EPA, Duke University and the National Academy of Sciences have linked groundwater contamination to fracking.)

The group also has a page and a Twitter account. "Do you like apples?" EID tweeted snarkily on Tuesday. "Real Promised Land passes Promised Land film in 'likes' on Facebook. How you like them apples?"

And after Promised Land's writer John Krasinski appeared on David Letterman's show last month, Energy in Depth's website posted a blog "fact-checking" their discussion of hydraulic fracturing.

"We've been surprised at the emergence of what looks like a concerted campaign targeting the film," James Schamus, chief executive of Focus Features, told the Journal in October.

Jeff Eshelman, a spokesman for IPAA told the Journal, "We have to address the concerns that are laid out in these types of films."

And for good reason. Fracking brings in billions of dollars for the multinational corporations behind the group. IPAA and its PR arm EID claim to represent a broad coalition of small, independent natural gas groups, "but really it's the big boys," says Kert Davies, research director at Greenpeace.

IPAA's website says it was "founded...by a small group of determined independents, nd] has grown to an organization of many thousands today." EID calls itself "a research, education and public outreach campaign...that benefits directly from

# News Clips Report

the support, guidance and technical insight of a broad segment of America's oil and natural gas industry."

But in a 2009 memo announcing the creation of EID to "combat new environmental regulations," IPAA notes that "the 'Energy In Depth' project would not be possible without the early financial commitments" of oil giants that now dominate the gas industry like XTO Energy (a subsidiary of ExxonMobil), BP, Anadarko, Chevron and Haliburton. In 2010, IPAA had revenues of more than \$8 million, and spent about the same.

EID has "a pretty well-oiled machine doing these counter ops," Davies says. "This is just the latest."

Besides the backlash against Gasland through EID's rebuttal film Truthland, other misinformation efforts by the PR group have included attacks on anti-fracking environmental groups like Food and Water Watch and the Park Foundation, and news outlets like The New York Times, ProPublica and the Associated Press, which have published investigations on the environmental dangers of fracking. EID slammed a recent Bloomberg poll that found an increase in public support for more fracking regulation, and took it upon themselves to "fact-check" the statement Vermont Gov. Peter Schumlin made when he signed into law the country's first statewide fracking ban.

IPAA and EID aren't the only industry-backed outfits scared of the growing anti-fracking movement, embodied in Promised Land. The Marcellus Shale Coalition, which represents drilling companies and drilling equipment manufacturers, is running short ads before the movie in 75 percent of theaters in Pennsylvania, instructing theatergoers to visit [learnaboutshale.org](http://learnaboutshale.org), where they are informed that drinking water will not be affected by fracking "if companies properly construct wells" and that Pennsylvania boasts some of the strongest natural gas drilling regulations in the country. (Pennsylvania's regulations were actually tightened in 2012, because of an increased understanding of the potential for groundwater supply contamination.)

Shell Oil itself is planning to use the film's publicity to bring attention to their collection of short films called "The Rational Middle," about the essential role of natural gas in any "sustainable energy future."

And the Heritage Foundation, which labels itself an "independent, tax-exempt institution [that] relies on the private financial support of the general public," but receives hundreds of thousands of dollars a year from Koch Foundations and ExxonMobil, launched a smear campaign against Promised Land too. The film is partially funded by Image Nation Abu Dhabi, a state media company of the United Arab Emirates, which Heritage alleges is a way for the oil-producing UAE to discredit natural gas and enrich themselves. (This theory doesn't quite work out because Image Nation Abu Dhabi also helped fund Deepwater Horizon's Final Hour.)

Schamus told ABC News he was "impress[ed]" by "the kind of propaganda specialists the fracking industry has sent after our little movie."

The industry is "concerned that [the anti-fracking movement] may permeate the mainstream more deeply than it already has," said Emily Wurth, a policy analyst at Food and Water Watch.

That's exactly what Damon's industry rep character is worried about in the film. As Sharon Kelly of DeSmog blog put it, "The irony here, of course, is that the industry's plan for taking on the movie runs parallel at times to the movie itself. It a case where art imitates life imitates art."

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## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste West Deptford Patch**

**01/18/2013**

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As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

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# News Clips Report

## **Fracking debate draws Yoko, Lennon and Sarandon to rural battlegrounds Guardian Unlimited**

**01/18/2013**

Artists Against Fracking board bus for magical mystery tour of Pennsylvania as New York and New Jersey decisions draw near

Yoko Ono might not seem the most likely bus traveller. Northern Pennsylvania, on a cold, snowy January day, might not seem a likely destination.

Yet the threat of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, and its impact on the farm she and John Lennon bought in New York spurred Ono and her son, Sean Lennon, into action. On Thursday the pair, a group of activists and the actress Susan Sarandon formed an improbable troupe for a road trip through towns which have been affected by fracking.

The expedition travelled under the banner of Artists Against Fracking, the group Ono and Lennon set up last summer, when governor Andrew Cuomo was originally due to rule on whether to allow fracking in New York State. Thanks no doubt to the star power of its founders, the group quickly managed to attract backing – from regular celebrity activists such as Sarandon and Mark Ruffalo to Alec Baldwin, the two living Beatles and Robert DeNiro. They also earned the support of the Scissor Sisters.

"It was an incredible response," Ono said, as the bus picked its way along narrow lanes. "All these artists are starting to come together. These days artists are very much into, and very sensitive to what is happening in society, not just what is happening with their work."

It was the potential impact of fracking on rural parts of New York State that prompted Lennon and Ono to get involved in the anti-fracking cause last summer. Cuomo eventually delayed his decision, pending further investigation into the practice; he is now due to rule on whether to allow fracking as early as 27 February, following a four-and-a-half year ban.

Ono and Lennon clambered aboard the bus – in fact a relatively luxurious coach – on Thursday as part of their bid to persuade the governor against the practice. Ono and Lennon still spend time at their rural farm, which was bought in the years before John Lennon died. While the farm might have inspired Ono to take up the cause, she said the campaign now went beyond that.

"It's not just for me, but for New York State and New York City as well. But also when we lose this game we're losing not just for New York State but for the United States and for Britain. I'm getting letters from Britain saying, 'Yoko, please do something, they're starting to frack here.'"

The pair keep secret the exact location of their farm, where Ono and John Lennon famously tended a herd of cows, but they will say that it is in prime fracking territory. The pair established Artists Against Fracking in August and organised the bus tour to show the impact fracking has had in Pennsylvania.

Fracking involves drilling a hole into shale rock deep underground, then blasting in water mixed with sand and chemicals. This creates fissures in the rock, releasing natural gas that is captured in a well at the surface. Problems can arise if the cement casing around the well-hole is inadequate, allowing chemicals to leak into water supplies. Those who support fracking say that with tougher regulation and stricter controls on the drilling process the practice is safe, although opponents argue that this is too much to risk.

The home of Michael and Tammy Manning in Franklin Forks was one of the bus tour's first stops – after four attempts to

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climb a particularly icy hill. The couple say the water in their home, which is sourced from their own well, like many homes' water supply in this region, became contaminated after fracking was carried out nearby.

"Our water was bubbling in our well. It looked like a full running boil in our well," said Tammy Manning, 45. Four generations of their family live in the house, a two-storey wood-paneled structure set in perhaps an acre of land. Video taken by Matthew Manning and shown as the anti-fracking entourage crammed into the Mannings' small living room showed water spurting out of the top of their well as from a fire hydrant. Inside the house, the water ran brown.

Pennsylvania's department of environmental protection tested the Mannings' exploding well soon after it began erupting. It found extremely high levels of methane, and told the family to keep all windows and doors open when running the taps or taking a shower – any build-up of the gas could be dangerous. The Mannings said they have received little help beyond that, and have to buy mineral water for drinking and cooking. They shower in tainted water.

"We don't want to have to leave," Tammy Manning said. "We just bought the house. But if we've no water what can we do." The reality is that the family has few options. "I don't think we can sell it with no water. We're stuck."

Supporters of fracking argue that the process can produce cheap fuel, promote energy independence and create jobs. The roads of Susquehanna County were certainly busy on Thursday, activists on the bus shouting out "sand truck" or "water truck" time and again, as heavy goods vehicles bearing the key elements of fracking passed by.

Some spoke of the tension within small towns and villages that has been caused by differing opinions over fracking. Companies pay good money for access to mineral rights, but one or two neighbours resisting the deal can deter companies from becoming involved with a whole street or community.

As the bus arrived in Dimock, where the department of environmental protection ruled in 2010 that fracking wells drilled by Cabot Oil and Gas Corp had leaked into 18 drinking wells, a man who identified himself as living locally shouted and gesticulated animatedly at the members of Activists Against Fracking as they disembarked. The man, who left before the Guardian could ask his name, insisted loudly that money from fracking had paid for his wife's cancer treatment.

He was not the only fly in the ointment. Filmmaker Phelim McAleer, a vocal critic of those opposed to fracking and something of a courter of controversy, approached the bus with a cameraman, loudly accusing Ono, Lennon and Sarandon of acting in the interests of the "1%" in their opposition to the practice.

As McAleer jogged and jostled for position, heckling Ono, Lennon and Sarandon and being heckled back by activists, the Irish filmmaker – who made the news recently after accusing Matt Damon, the actor whose new film, *Promised Land*, deals with the subject of fracking, of being a "liar" – became separated from his trilby hat, which he had to collect from the muddy slush.

McAleer shouted to the group that the drinking water in Dimock was safe, citing EPA studies that activists say are incorrect. In any case, Cabot Oil and Gas Corp agreed in December 2010 to pay a \$4.6m settlement that required it to fix its leaking wells. The Pennsylvania DEP ruled that Cabot could resume fracking near Dimock in August last year.

McAleer's arrival marked the only time Ono took advantage of a large V12 Mercedes-Benz which an aide drove behind the coach for the entire trip, and which might raise some questions over the environmental soundness of the exercise. Ono got into the back of the black car as McAleer made himself known nearby, later popping her head out of the window to check all was clear before clambering back on to the bus for the ride home.

Artists Against Fracking have already given Cuomo plenty to consider ahead of his February ruling. In addition to the clutch of celebrity supporters, the group and other anti-fracking organisations collected 200,000 messages during a 30-day public consultation period in December and January. Ono and Lennon helped to deliver the messages to the governor.



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in Albany on 11 January.

The campaign could have an impact in New Jersey too. The Garden State's year-long moratorium on fracking expired on Thursday, and governor Chris Christie is due to make an announcement on the immediate future of the process before the end of the month.

"I'm not an activist by nature, I'm a musician. What I'm interested in is making music and art," Lennon said on the bus. "I had no desire to be spending any of my time researching things like benzene, methane and uranium and well-pits and well-casings and what percentage of well-casings fail over how many years."

Lennon said he had been moved by the stories of people who face having to leave their homes because of a lack of clean water, but like those people, he had the sense of a personal threat. His family's farm draws fresh water, unfiltered, from its own well, just like the Mannings' house and the homes in Dimock. To Lennon, fracking poses a risk to the farm at which he can remember spending time with his father as a young boy.

"It would actually change my life," he said. "I think on some level I might have to consider leaving. I'm so into nature and the country, and having a place in the country where I could drink my own water was really essential to my feeling safe, it means a lot to me. So if that changes, I might leave."

Lennon said he was unsure if he would leave New York, or leave the US entirely – he has both American and British passports and describes himself as an Anglophile. "But I don't want to be in a place where I feel like I can't drink clean water," he said.

# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste South Brunswick Patch**

**01/18/2013**

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Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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[http://westfield.patch.com/blog\\_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media\\_attachments/edit?upload\\_started=1358541490](http://westfield.patch.com/blog_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media_attachments/edit?upload_started=1358541490)

# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013**

**StreetInsider.com**

**01/18/2013**

LYNNFIELD, MA -- (Marketwire) -- 01/18/13 -- American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced that its CEO, Lyle Jensen, will speak at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013 to discuss the Company's recent success in converting hydraulic fracturing rig pumps and oil and gas drilling rig generators to run on either liquefied natural gas (LNG), well-head gas or pipeline gas and diesel fuel. The seminar is organized by Zeus Development Corporation, an information clearinghouse and consultancy for rapid-growth energy markets. The seminar will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas and American Power Group's presentation will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Please refer to <http://www.worldlngfuels.com> for further information.

### About American Power Group Corporation

American Power Group's alternative energy subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc., provides a cost-effective patented "Turbocharged Natural Gas" conversion technology for vehicular, stationary and off-road mobile diesel engines. American Power Group's dual fuel technology is a unique non-invasive energy enhancement system that converts existing diesel engines into more efficient and environmentally friendly engines that have the flexibility to run on: (1) diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas; (2) diesel fuel and compressed natural gas; (3) diesel fuel and pipeline or well-head gas; and (4) diesel fuel and bio-methane, with the flexibility to return to 100% diesel fuel operation at any time. The proprietary technology seamlessly displaces up to 80% of the normal diesel fuel consumption with the average displacement ranging from 40% to 65%. The energized fuel balance is maintained with a proprietary read-only electronic controller system ensuring the engines operate at original equipment manufacturers' specified temperatures and pressures. Installation on a wide variety of engine models and end-market applications require no engine modifications unlike the more expensive invasive fuel-injected systems in the market. See additional information at: [www.americanpowergroupinc.com](http://www.americanpowergroupinc.com).

### Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Opinions

With the exception of the historical information contained in this release, the matters described herein contain forward-looking statements and opinions, including, but not limited to, statements relating to new markets, development and introduction of new products, and financial and operating projections. These forward-looking statements and opinions are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risk and uncertainties that may individually or mutually impact the matters herein, and cause actual results, events and performance to differ materially from such forward-looking statements and opinions. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, results of future operations, difficulties or delays in developing or introducing new products and keeping them on the market, the results of future research, lack of product demand and market acceptance for current and future products, adverse events, product changes, the effect of economic conditions, the impact of competitive products and pricing, governmental regulations with respect to emissions, including whether EPA approval will be obtained for future products and additional applications, the results of litigation, factors affecting the Company's future income and resulting ability to utilize its NOLs, and/or other factors, which are detailed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 and the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and opinions, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements and opinions that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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Source: American Power Group Corporation

# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013**

**Individual.com**

**01/18/2013**

American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG

Fuels Conference 2013

LYNNFIELD, MA, Jan 18, 2013 (MARKETWIRE via COMTEX) --

American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced that its

CEO, Lyle Jensen, will speak at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013

to discuss the Company's recent success in converting hydraulic

fracturing rig pumps and oil and gas drilling rig generators to run

on either liquefied natural gas (LNG), well-head gas or pipeline gas

and diesel fuel. The seminar is organized by Zeus Development

Corporation, an information clearinghouse and consultancy for

rapid-growth energy markets. The seminar will be held at the George

R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas and American Power

Group's presentation will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Please

refer to <http://www.worldlngfuels.com> for further information.

About American Power Group Corporation

American Power Group's alternative energy subsidiary, American Power

Group, Inc., provides a cost-effective patented Turbocharged Natural

Gas(TM) conversion technology for vehicular, stationary and off-road

mobile diesel engines. American Power Group's dual fuel technology is

a unique non-invasive energy enhancement system that converts

existing diesel engines into more efficient and environmentally

# News Clips Report

friendly engines that have the flexibility to run on: (1) diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas; (2) diesel fuel and compressed natural gas; (3) diesel fuel and pipeline or well-head gas; and (4) diesel fuel and bio-methane, with the flexibility to return to 100% diesel fuel operation at any time. The proprietary technology seamlessly displaces up to 80% of the normal diesel fuel consumption with the average displacement ranging from 40% to 65%. The energized fuel balance is maintained with a proprietary read-only electronic controller system ensuring the engines operate at original equipment manufacturers' specified temperatures and pressures. Installation on a wide variety of engine models and end-market applications require no engine modifications unlike the more expensive invasive fuel-injected systems in the market. See additional information at: [www.americanpowergroupinc.com](http://www.americanpowergroupinc.com).

## Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Opinions

With the exception of the historical information contained in this release, the matters described herein contain forward-looking statements and opinions, including, but not limited to, statements relating to new markets, development and introduction of new products, and financial and operating projections. These forward-looking statements and opinions are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risk and uncertainties that may individually or mutually impact the matters herein, and cause actual results, events and performance to differ materially from such forward-looking

# News Clips Report

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# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste Howell Patch**

**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste Lawrenceville (N.J.) Patch**

**01/18/2013**

Posted on January 18, 2013 at 1:49 pm

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

## Obama EPA Shut Down Study on Fracking Water Contamination in Texas DAILY KOS

01/18/2013

The Associated Press has a breaking investigative story out today revealing that the Obama Administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) censored a smoking gun scientific report in March 2012 that it had contracted out to a scientist who conducted field data on 32 water samples in Weatherford, TX.

That report, according to the AP, would have explicitly linked methane migration to hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in Weatherford, a city with 25,000+ citizens located in the heart of the Barnett Shale geologic formation 30 minutes from Dallas.

It was authored by Geoffrey Thyne, a geologist formerly on the faculty of the Colorado School of Mines and University of Wyoming before departing from the latter for a job in the private sector working for Terralogic Inc. in Ft Collins, CO.

Cross-Posted from DeSmogBlog

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This isn't the first time Thyne's scientific research has been shoved aside, either. Thyne wrote two landmark studies on groundwater contamination in Garfield County, CO, the first showing that it existed, the second confirming that the contamination was directly linked to fracking in the area.

It's the second study that got him in trouble.

"Thyne says he was told to cease his research by higher-ups. He didn't," The Checks and Balances Project explained. "And when it came to renew his contract, Thyne was cut loose."

From Smoking Gun to Censorship: Range Resources Link

The Obama EPA's Weatherford, TX study was long-in-the-making, with its origins actually dating back to a case of water contamination in 2010. The victim: Steve Lipsky.

"At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane," the AP wrote.

AP proceeded to explain that Lipsky had "reported his family's drinking water had begun 'bubbling' like champagne" and that his "well...contains so much methane that the...water [is] pouring out of a garden hose [that] can be ignited."

# News Clips Report

The driller in this case was a corporation notorious for intimidating local communities and governmental officials at all levels of governance: Range Resources. Range, in this case, set up shop for shale gas production in a “wooded area about a mile from Lipsky’s home,” according to the AP.

As DeSmogBlog revealed in November 2011, Range Resources utilizes psychological warfare techniques as part of its overarching public relations strategy.

Due to the grave health concerns associated with the presence of methane and benzene in drinking water, the Obama EPA “ordered Range...to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water,” wrote the AP.

Range’s response? It “threatened not to cooperate” with the Obama EPA’s study on fracking’s link to water contamination. The non-cooperation led to the Obama EPA suing Range Resources.

It was during this phase of the struggle where things got interesting. As the AP explained,

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the Obama EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources’ nearby drilling operation.

Despite this smoking gun, everything was soon shut down, with the Obama EPA reversing its emergency order, terminating the court battle and censoring Thyne’s report. The AP explained that the Obama EPA has “refused to answer questions about the decision.”

“I just can’t believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn’t use it,” Lipsky, who now pays \$1,000 a month to have water hauled to his family’s house, told the AP.

“Duke Study” Co-Author Confirms Veracity of Thyne’s Study

Robert Jackson, a Professor of Global Environmental Change at Duke University and co-author of the “Duke Study” linking fracking to groundwater contamination did an independent peer review of Thyne’s censored findings. He found that it is probable that the methane in Lipsky’s well water likely ended up there thanks to the fracking process.

Range predictably dismissed Thyne and Jackson as “anti-industry.”

Americans Against Fracking: An “Unconscionable” Decision

Americans Against Fracking summed up the situation best in a scathing press release:

It is unconscionable that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is tasked with safeguarding our nation’s vital natural resources, would fold under pressure to the oil and gas industry...It is again abundantly clear that the deep pocketed oil and gas industry will stop at nothing to protect its own interests, even when mounting scientific evidence shows that drilling and fracking pose a direct threat to vital drinking water supplies.

There’s also a tragic human side to this tale.

“This has been total hell,” Lipsky told the AP. “It’s been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life.”

# News Clips Report

## House Democrats push EPA to move faster on Pavillion EnergyWire

01/18/2013

Updated at 8:46 a.m. EST.

House Democrats have joined in a congressional chorus of criticism aimed at U.S. EPA's plan to delay an investigation into groundwater contamination near hydraulic fracturing sites in Wyoming.

Illinois Rep. Jan Schakowsky and 19 co-signers sent a letter today to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, urging her to speed up the agency's probe of water contamination from oil fields around Pavillion, Wyo.

After releasing hotly contested draft conclusions in late 2011, EPA has extended the public comment period a number of times, most recently announcing that a final report would not be released until September (E&ENews PM, Jan. 10).

"The people of Pavillion -- whose water is riddled with unsafe chemicals -- deserve faster action," the lawmakers wrote.

The Democrats' letter comes a day after a similar one from Republican Sens. David Vitter of Louisiana and James Inhofe of Oklahoma, who also railed on EPA's eight-month delay, accusing the agency of prioritizing politics over science in its investigation (EnergyWire, Jan. 17).

EPA's initial results in 2011 showed that fracking fluid was present in deep groundwater but not in shallower drinking water -- still giving environmentalists the high-profile case they needed to back up claims of fracking's harmful effects. But those results were questioned when the U.S. Geological Survey tried to do further testing from EPA's two monitoring wells and found that one of them was not up to USGS's testing standards.

Industry has charged EPA with conducting sloppy research to raise public concern over fracking, a well stimulation technique that pushes chemical-laced water and sand deep underground to loosen up oil and gas. The agency is in the middle of a nationwide study into fracking's safety.

"We are very disappointed in this delay, which we believe must be the last," the Democrats wrote in today's letter. "As we await your findings, we ask that your agency continue to work collaboratively with state, tribal, and local agencies, as well as impacted residents, to protect public health and the environment."

Co-signers to the letter are Reps. Earl Blumenauer (Ore.), Matt Cartwright (Pa.), Steve Cohen (Tenn.), John Conyers (Mich.), Pete DeFazio (Ore.), Sam Farr (Calif.), Raúl Grijalva (Ariz.), Mike Honda (Calif.), Rush Holt (N.J.), Jared Huffman (Calif.), Barbara Lee (Calif.), Jim McDermott (Wash.), Jerrold Nadler (N.Y.), Jared Polis (Colo.), Mike Quigley (Ill.), Charlie Rangel (N.Y.), Carol Shea-Porter (N.H.), Niki Tsongas (Mass.) and Maxine Waters (Calif.).

# News Clips Report

## **GOP Faults Delayed EPA Fracking Study Inside EPA Weekly Report**

**01/18/2013**

Republican senators are criticizing EPA for again delaying its draft study linking groundwater contamination in Wyoming to hydraulic fracturing fluids, saying the agency's decision to extend a public comment deadline allows critics to cite the 2011 draft report to push for strict new regulations.

EPA's delay "allows the Agency's unsubstantiated claims to remain unchecked" by allowing the draft report to remain in the public domain, Sens. David Vitter (R-LA), ranking member on the Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works and James Inhofe (R-OK) say in a Jan. 17 letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson.

The senators are also warning that the delay and other problems with EPA's Wyoming study raises doubts about the rigor of the agency's broader study of potential drinking water impacts related to fracking.

EPA in a Jan. 11 Federal Register notice extended the public comment period to Sept. 30 for its draft report, "Investigation of Ground Water Contamination near Pavillion, Wyoming" which the agency released Dec. 8, 2011. The draft report represents the first time the agency has publicly acknowledged that groundwater contamination of an aquifer was "likely" due to fracking chemicals.

Industry and Republican lawmakers have widely charged that the study is flawed, citing a host of concerns including that EPA's sampling methodology could have contributed to the contamination, that the agency ignored data showing evidence that contaminants were naturally occurring, and that the findings relied on data sets that are too narrow to support the draft conclusions.

In the Jan. 17 letter, the lawmakers reiterate previous criticisms of the draft report, which they say the agency has failed to address. "In light of the flawed process and lack of proper scientific analysis in EPA's initial draft report, along with the agency's continued mismanagement of the investigation, how can a credible final product possibly be salvaged?" they say.

Vitter and Inhofe also suggest that the draft Pavillion report raises questions about the agency's methodology for its larger, congressionally directed study seeking to examine the potential impacts of fracking on drinking water, saying "how can Congress and the public have any confidence in the results of this ongoing study?"

EPA Dec. 21 released an interim version of its broader study. While final results are slated for 2014, the interim report says the agency will not be completing two case studies to assess potential groundwater contamination at new fracking sites until after the broader study is completed.

Environmentalists have charged that the prospective case studies are needed because, as EPA said in the Pavillion draft report, cases like the Wyoming study highlight the need for baseline water quality data to better track whether fracking contributes to groundwater pollution.

An industry-funded analysis of the fracking study's scope, conducted by contractor Battelle and published in November 2011, said that a lack of baseline data in some of the retrospective case studies EPA had planned for sites where contamination had already occurred would be "likely to limit the scientific validity and usefulness of case study findings and may result in incorrect or flawed conclusions."

A spokesman for Encana, the energy company that drills near Pavillion, has already criticized the delay, saying in a Jan.

# News Clips Report

11 statement that, as the third extension to the comment deadline, the announcement is disappointing and a “disservice not only to Encana, but to the people of Pavillion and the state of Wyoming.”



# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste Gloucester Township Patch**

**01/18/2013**

Yesterday the one year moratorium on natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New Jersey has come to end. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking within the state to a one year suspension. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the drilling process itself and the wastes produced by fracking.

As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

The expiration of the fracking moratorium comes four months after the Governor vetoed the fracking waste ban bill. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey as in-state facilities have already been documented as accepting fracking wastewater, sludges, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep the toxic waste from being disposed of in New Jersey. With the expiration of the moratorium, overriding the Governor's veto of this bill is the first action the Legislature should take in advancing protections for New Jerseyans against fracking.

Fracking waste contains hundreds of contaminants, including dangerous chemicals and radioactive compounds. By an exemption from federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose all the chemicals used in the process, and with these unknown additives it is impossible to know the full threat fracking waste presents or how to fully and safely treat the waste. Toxic pollutants that reside in the deep gas-bearing rock are dislodged and regurgitated by the fracking process, adding even more health hazards to the waste that is produced – a chemical stew that even the federal government hasn't figured out how to safely treat. The Frack Waste Ban Bill would have prevented fracking waste from being discharged, treated and disposed of in New Jersey.

Jim Walsh of Food & Water Watch reminded us all how important action on fracking waste and fracking is in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He noted, "Hurricane Sandy provides us a grim reminder of why we need to move away from extreme energy sources like fracking that are perpetuating climate change while threatening drinking water, public health, and the environment. Christie had two opportunities to lead New Jersey away from this risky and dangerous industry, but instead he caved to pressure from the oil and gas companies, vetoing New Jersey's fracking waste ban and New Jersey's permanent ban on fracking. We need the legislature to move and lead where the Governor continues to fail by overriding the Governor's veto of the fracking waste ban and then moving to ban fracking permanently in New Jersey."

During Hurricane Sandy over 20% of New Jersey's wastewater treatment facilities failed, spewing raw and partially treated waste into New Jersey's waterways. Stormwater can also flood the pipes entering treatment plants causing combined sewer overflows with hazardous materials entering waterways. If we allow fracking waste to be dumped and treated in New Jersey that waste could also potentially be discharged without proper treatment, reaching our waterways

# News Clips Report

in such ways during a weather event. This is especially dangerous in light of a recent Stony Brook University study that found that the biggest threat to drinking water supplies from the fracking process came from the disposal of waste water.

The New Jersey Environmental Federation's Dave Pringle addressed fracking's climate change impacts stating, "Fracking will increase our addiction to dirty fossil fuels. We don't want its spoils in our water, its exhaust in our lungs, and its contribution climate disruption no the least of which is more frequent and severe weather like Sandy.

In his conditional veto of the ban bill, Governor Christie directed the DEP to investigate the adverse air and water impacts of fracking but there is no final deadline for the report. Environmental groups have criticized the DEP's fracking study due to its lack of transparency. There have been no public hearings or public involvement in the investigation. No study scope was announced. The state study is being done while the US EPA continues to examine fracking through a very public process, with their results and recommendations expected in 2014.

At the event Michael PISAURO with NJ Environmental Lobby addressed these problems with the DEP report saying, "This administration started with a promise of transparency and bipartisanship. On the issue of fracking this administration has failed. It failed to act in a bipartisan manner when it vetoed the fracking ban and the fracking waste ban the last year. It has been anything but transparent in its development of the fracking study. NJ deserves clean water and a healthy environment both which are put in jeopardy by the administration's failure to act in the best interest of the state."

Governor Christie has failed to protect the people of New Jersey from the dangers of fracking. Instead of having a ban on the drilling practice, we are seeing the moratorium end. Instead of stopping the disposal of fracking waste in New Jersey, the Governor vetoed the bill. We deserve stronger leadership on this issue and better protections in place, especially in the wake of Hurricane Sandy which showed just how vulnerable our treatment plants and landfills are. The first step to better protecting ourselves from fracking is overriding veto on the fracking waste ban.

[http://gloucestertownship.patch.com/blog\\_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media\\_attachments/edit?upload\\_start\\_id=1358537204](http://gloucestertownship.patch.com/blog_posts/new-jerseys-fracking-moratorium-has-expired-state-now-vulnerable-to-fracking-and-fracking-waste/media_attachments/edit?upload_start_id=1358537204)

# News Clips Report

## Filmmakers decry 'death, destruction' myths as they tout pro-fracking documentary EnergyWire

01/18/2013

Two filmmakers behind a new pro-fracking documentary went on the attack yesterday at a gathering of newsmakers in Washington, D.C., lambasting what they call myths about hydraulic fracturing that their film aims to counter.

Filmmakers Ann McElhinney and Phelim McAleer, whose documentary "FrackNation" makes its television debut next week, were in D.C. to promote the film. The film's third director, Polish journalist Magdalena Segieda, was not present.

"According to myths propagated by The New York Times, CNN, etc., if you go to Dimock, Pa., where there's fracking occurring, [you'll find] death, destruction," McElhinney said. "Obviously, with that kind of description, you'd expect to find dramatic stories everywhere."

Dimock was made famous in the 2010 documentary "Gasland," in which some of the town's residents are shown setting their tap water on fire. The filmmakers attribute this phenomenon to naturally occurring emissions rather than hydraulic fracturing.

McElhinney said there was no such evidence of fracking-caused problems in Dimock. Rather, she and McAleer argue fracking has helped local communities across the United States. In part of the film, they took that message to Poland, which is largely reliant on Russian energy giant Gazprom for its natural gas needs.

"FrackNation" bills itself as a rebuttal of "Gasland" and bears the tag line, "a journalist's search for the fracking truth." It focuses on the controversy surrounding the use of hydraulic fracturing -- the process of shooting sand, water and chemicals down well bores at high pressures to extract previously unreachable deposits of oil or natural gas. The documentary aims to debunk environmentalists' claims that fracking can contaminate groundwater.

The publicist for "Gasland" did not respond to a request to interview filmmaker Josh Fox. However, a section of the film's website includes a 39-page document called "Affirming Gasland" in which Fox responds to criticism from gas-industry groups.

"FrackNation" directors McElhinney and McAleer previously produced the 2009 film "Not Evil Just Wrong" in response to Al Gore's documentary about climate change, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Reactions to "FrackNation" have been mixed. Reviewers lauded the documentary's thorough research and McAleer's use of the Freedom of Information Act to garner video and background from U.S. EPA, although other critics denounced the film's heavy-handed approach to the issue and considered it one-sided.

John Armstrong, an organizer with the Albany, N.Y.-based FrackAction anti-fracking group, dismissed the film's premise and insisted it was an attempt to debase grass-roots movements.

"It seems like a personal attack on our side's credibility as well as our motives," the New York native said in an interview, pointing out what he described as a "cozy" relationship between the filmmakers and oil companies based on promotions by Energy in Depth, the online public outreach arm of the Independent Petroleum Association of America.

McAleer was quick to observe that "FrackNation" received no funding from the oil and natural gas industry and turned away \$30,000 from such companies.

# News Clips Report

"We just felt we can paddle our own canoe," he said, adding that the funding issue "was very important for us."

Instead, the film was financed by more than 3,000 individual contributors via the online funding platform Kickstarter, raising \$212,265.

"FrackNation" is set to air Tuesday on Mark Cuban's AXS TV at 9 p.m. EST.

# News Clips Report

## **New Jersey's Fracking Moratorium Has EXPIRED! State Now Vulnerable to Fracking and Fracking Waste New Providence-Berkeley Heights Patch**

**01/18/2013**

Yesterday the one year moratorium on natural gas drilling using hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, in New Jersey has come to end. The moratorium went into effect last year after Governor Christie conditionally vetoed an outright ban on fracking within the state to a one year suspension. Governor Christie also vetoed the Fracking Waste Ban Bill that was approved by the Legislature this past year, leaving New Jersey vulnerable to the drilling process itself and the wastes produced by fracking.

As the moratorium on fracking for gas ended, environmental leaders including Sierra Club, came together to call on the Legislature and Governor to protect us from the dangers of fracking, starting with an override of the Governor's veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill which is urgently needed to prevent frack waste from being disposed of in the state.

Tracy Carluccio, Deputy Director, Delaware Riverkeeper Network noted the Governor's conditional veto has "exposed all of us and our drinking water to the risks of pollution that fracking brings by removing all the reasonable and essential safeguards the Legislature enacted to protect us. A big "Dump Here" sign has been hung on New Jersey by Governor Christie, throwing all caution to the wind. We call on our legislators to start to put things right by voting to override the Governor's senseless veto of the Frack Waste Ban Bill."

The expiration of the fracking moratorium comes four months after the Governor vetoed the fracking waste ban bill. The legislation passed with overwhelming bipartisan support. Fracking waste presents an immediate threat to New Jersey as in-state facilities have already been documented as accepting fracking wastewater, sludges, and drill cuttings. This legislation is the only way to keep the toxic waste from being disposed of in New Jersey. With the expiration of the moratorium, overriding the Governor's veto of this bill is the first action the Legislature should take in advancing protections for New Jerseyans against fracking.

Fracking waste contains hundreds of contaminants, including dangerous chemicals and radioactive compounds. By an exemption from federal law, the gas industry is not required to disclose all the chemicals used in the process, and with these unknown additives it is impossible to know the full threat fracking waste presents or how to fully and safely treat the waste. Toxic pollutants that reside in the deep gas-bearing rock are dislodged and regurgitated by the fracking process, adding even more health hazards to the waste that is produced – a chemical stew that even the federal government hasn't figured out how to safely treat. The Frack Waste Ban Bill would have prevented fracking waste from being discharged, treated and disposed of in New Jersey.

Jim Walsh of Food & Water Watch reminded us all how important action on fracking waste and fracking is in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy. He noted, "Hurricane Sandy provides us a grim reminder of why we need to move away from extreme energy sources like fracking that are perpetuating climate change while threatening drinking water, public health, and the environment. Christie had two opportunities to lead New Jersey away from this risky and dangerous industry, but instead he caved to pressure from the oil and gas companies, vetoing New Jersey's fracking waste ban and New Jersey's permanent ban on fracking. We need the legislature to move and lead where the Governor continues to fail by overriding the Governor's veto of the fracking waste ban and then moving to ban fracking permanently in New Jersey."

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# News Clips Report

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At the event Michael PISAURO with NJ Environmental Lobby addressed these problems with the DEP report saying, "This administration started with a promise of transparency and bipartisanship. On the issue of fracking this administration has failed. It failed to act in a bipartisan manner when it vetoed the fracking ban and the fracking waste ban the last year. It has been anything but transparent in its development of the fracking study. NJ deserves clean water and a healthy environment both which are put in jeopardy by the administration's failure to act in the best interest of the state."

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# News Clips Report

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**01/18/2013**

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# News Clips Report

## **Maryland Fracking Study: O'Malley Proposes \$1.5 Million In 2014 Budget For Natural Gas Research** **Huffington Post, The**

**01/18/2013**

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Gov. Martin O'Malley has proposed spending \$1.5 million to study using hydraulic fracturing to extract natural gas from the Marcellus Shale in western Maryland.

The allocation is the fiscal 2014 budget the Democratic governor proposed this week in Annapolis. The money would be used for stream sampling, economic analysis and a review of the potential impacts of gas extraction on public health.

The governor's timetable calls for the state's Marcellus Shale Advisory Commission to issue a final report in August 2014. The state won't issue drilling permits until after that.

Meanwhile, Democratic Delegate Heather Mizeur plans to introduce a bill that would officially bar fracking until the state completes a series of 14 studies the governor laid out in a 2011 executive order on gas drilling.

### **State Lawmakers And Environmental Activists Express Opposition To Hydro Fracking**

NEW YORK, NY - JANUARY 11: Opponents of hydraulic fracturing in New York state attend a news conference and rally against hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, on January 11, 2012 in New York City. The event, which was held on the steps of City Hall, called for an end to the controversial gas drilling method as environmental groups increasingly warn about contamination of the state's aquifers that could poison its drinking water. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

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NEW YORK, NY - JANUARY 11: Eric Weltman of Food & Water Watch attends a news conference and rally against hydraulic fracturing, also known as fracking, in New York State on January 11, 2012 in New York City. The event, which was held on the steps of City Hall, called for an end to the controversial gas drilling method as environmental groups increasingly warn about contamination of the state's aquifers that could poison its drinking water. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

### **Department Of Environmental Conservation Holds Hydro Fracking Hearing**

NEW YORK, NY - NOVEMBER 30: Opponents and supporters of gas-drilling, or fracking, walk into the last of four public hearings on proposed fracking regulations in upstate New York on November 30, 2011 in New York City. Fracking, a process that injects millions of gallons of chemical mixed water into a well in order to release gas, has become a contentious issue in New York as critics of the process believe it contaminates drinking water among other hazards. New York City gets much of its drinking water from upstate reservoirs. If the regulations are approved, drilling in the upstate New York Marcellus Shale could begin next year. (Photo by Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

### **Cuadrilla Shale Fracking Plant**

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: Engineers on the drilling platform of the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

# News Clips Report

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PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: General views of the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

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PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: A lump of shale rock on display at the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

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PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: Engineers on the drilling platform of the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

## Cuadrilla Shale Fracking Plant

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: Engineers at work on the drilling platform of the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

## Cuadrilla Shale Fracking Plant

# News Clips Report

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: Drill heads on display at the entrance to the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

## Cuadrilla Shale Fracking Plant

PRESTON, LANCASHIRE - OCTOBER 07: An engineer displays a lump of shale rock at the Cuadrilla shale fracking facility on October 7, 2012 in Preston, Lancashire. The controversial method of extracting gas by pumping high pressure water and chemicals into shale formations deep underground has been blamed for two minor earthquakes in the surrounding region. Environmental campaigners are calling for a halt to the drilling of what Cuadrilla believe could be significant reserves of natural gas. (Photo by Matthew Lloyd/Getty Images)

## Hydraulic Fracturing Prevention Press Conference

NEW YORK, NY - APRIL 25: Actor/director Mark Ruffalo (C) speaks at the Hydraulic Fracturing prevention press conference urging the protection of the drinking water source of 15 million Americans at Foley Square on April 25, 2011 in New York City. (Photo by D Dipasupil/Getty Images)

## Hydraulic Fracturing Prevention Press Conference

NEW YORK, NY - APRIL 25: (L-R) Actor/director Mark Ruffalo, Denise Katzman, Wenonah Hauter, and Water Defense co-founder/campaign director Claire Sandberg attend the Hydraulic Fracturing prevention press conference urging the protection of the drinking water source of 15 million Americans at Foley Square on April 25, 2011 in New York City. (Photo by D Dipasupil/Getty Images)

## Josh Fox on Obama, the EPA, and House Republicans Who Had Him Arrested

HuffPost Green Editor Joanna Zelman talks to Josh Fox, director of the documentary 'Gasland,' about hydro-fracking, the EPA, and the House Republicans who had him arrested during a Congressional hearing.

## Game Changer in Green: Mark Ruffalo

The expertise and the grassroots zeal Mark Ruffalo has brought to the issue of fracking is changing the game in green.

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## **New Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure Bignews.biz**

**01/18/2013**

Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure

Suggest EPA's third delay of this report is signal the process, science were flawed

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Publish Date: 2013-01-18

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Congress and the public have any confidence in the results of this ongoing study? Given the serious flaws in EPA's scientific processes with regards to investigating hydraulic fracturing, how can the Agency possibly plan on using this study as an authoritative document to potentially justify future regulations?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We respectfully request your response by February 4, 2013.

Sincerely,

---

Senator David Vitter

---

Senator James M. Inhofe

Ranking Member

Senate Committee on Environment

# News Clips Report

## **New Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure Bignews.biz**

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forward by State of Wyoming officials and various stakeholders.

The additional eight month delay, further illustrates that the EPA's initial findings failed to be based on sound credible science, and hastily rushed out the door for political purposes. The citizens of Pavillion and the State of Wyoming, as well as industry stakeholders, maintain a compelling interest in ensuring EPA conducts the investigation in a scientific and transparent manner, which up to this point the Agency avoided.

Friday's announcement allows the Agency's unsubstantiated claims to remain unchecked in order to justify an Administration-wide effort to hinder and unnecessarily regulate hydraulic fracturing on the federal level. In this case, the unexpected and unusually long extension in this seemingly never-ending process appears to be based solely on the Agency's desire to ignore transparency requirements while allowing the report's flawed assertions to remain in the public domain.

The Agency has failed to address significant concerns raised with the process and conclusions of the draft report, including:

- Why EPA ignored multiple data sources in its draft report that document long-standing, naturally occurring problems such as high sodium, high sulfate, and naturally produced methane gas with groundwater in the Pavillion area;
- Numerous documented instances of poor quality sampling and laboratory methods in which even blank samples were routinely contaminated;
- The use of a very limited and incomplete data sets to draw technically inadequate conclusions;
- Reliance on data from two EPA monitoring wells – neither of which tested the water quality in the aquifers used by residents – that were completed in natural gas reservoirs;
- Failure to ensure integrity in EPA's monitoring wells where many organic and synthetic organic chemicals that were detected were likely introduced during the drilling, completion, testing, and sampling phases;
- Failure of EPA to follow United States Geological Survey recommendations for monitoring well drilling and sampling;
- Failure of the Agency to adequately recognize the local geology and hydrogeology of the Wind River Formation;
- Failure of EPA to rule out or study possible other sources of groundwater contamination; and

# News Clips Report

- Focusing the report entirely on hydraulic fracturing while failing to address the needs of the landowner's water supply issues.

Given the controversy surrounding the report, including the concerns raised above, and the continued availability of the draft report, we request prompt responses on the following questions:

1. In light of the flawed process and lack of proper scientific analysis in EPA's initial draft report, along with the Agency's continued mismanagement of the investigation, how can a credible final product possibly be salvaged?
2. While EPA has been investigating water quality issues and their possible relationship to hydraulic fracturing in Pavillion, WY, the Agency began crafting a larger study on the potential impacts of hydraulic fracturing on drinking water resources. This larger study applies similar methodologies to those of the Agency in Pavillion as well as the suspect processes used in other erroneous investigations in Dimock, PA, and Parker County, TX. Based on this record, how can

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BigNews.Biz - Jan 18,2013 - Vitter, Inhofe Call EPA's Report on Hydraulic Fracturing in Wyoming a Failure

Suggest EPA's third delay of this report is signal the process, science were flawed

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Sens. David Vitter (R-La.) and Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) called on Environment Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson to answer questions about the science used in a hydraulic fracturing report in Wyoming. The Senators highlight missteps and setbacks with the EPA's draft report, and they demand an explanation before the report is used to inform any future actions or potential regulations. Vitter and Inhofe also suggest this report is fundamentally flawed and not to be considered credible.

"It's not often you see the EPA have to delay a report for a third time," Vitter said. "Unfortunately, it's all too often to see them using flawed science for political purposes. In this case, we want to make sure their failed report doesn't set back the positive progress with hydraulic fracturing – arguably the brightest spot in our otherwise slumping economy."

"I have had major concerns about this report from the very beginning," said Inhofe. "Using shoddy science to pursue an agenda that prevents America from responsibly using our own energy resources is unacceptable. It damages our own energy independence at a time when the nation is on the verge of outpacing countries like Saudi Arabia with the natural gas industry leading the way. These wrong-headed efforts to over regulate this important sector of our economy would mean lost jobs, lost revenues, and increased costs for every American family."

The EPA produced a draft report in December 2011 on the impact hydraulic fracturing had on ground water near Pavillion, Wyoming. Their report has been criticized for being premature, and the EPA has delayed the comment period three separate times. The most recent comment period was supposed to end on January 15, 2013, however, it has been delayed for another eight months. Vitter and Inhofe suggest the delay illustrates that the EPA used flawed science in their report.

The text of the Senators' letter is below.

January 17, 2013

# News Clips Report

**CBS This Morning  
WBNG-TV**

**01/18/2013**

Good Morning I'm Haley Burton. It's 8:55 Some celebrities tour the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. But this trip wasn't so much about meeting fans... ..As it was about observing the impact of hydraulic fracturing. Susan Sarandon, Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon made the trip from New York City to Susquehanna County. They are a part of Artists Against Fracking. Residents shared their homes and stories of how natural gas drilling affects their daily life. Those for fracking also followed the bus... hoping tell their side of the story. Those against it, are hoping to raise awareness. "I guess that's what we have to do, is tell people, you know there's so many different ways to get energy but water is just water, it's just a god-given gift." "this is a publicity stunt as far as we're concerned. It's an example of some people who have absolutely no stake in the matter, come up here and ... they're simply taking advantage of a trendy cause." Shepstone is from the Northeast Marcellus Initiative and stands by the EPA decision last year that found the water in Dimock Township is safe to drink. The Governor of Pennsylvania says he is looking to privatize the state's lottery system. Governor Tom Corbett says he hopes a company called Camelot Global Services will buy the lottery... ensuring security for programs aiding the state's senior population. The contract with Camelot Global Services offers 3 to 4 point 5 billion dollars worth of new funding for senior programs... Corbett says this move is about the growing population of older Pennsylvanians. PA has the fourth largest population of older adults in the country. Now Let's get a check of Storm Tracker Weather with Meteorologist Greg Pollak. That does it for Action News This Morning.Join Greg and me again for Action News at Noon. We'll also see you here tomorrow bright and early starting at 5:00am.Thanks for watching.Have a great day. HERE YOU GO, BREAKFAST SANDWICH FROM DUNKIN' DONUTS. WHAT'S IN IT? TURKEY SAUSAGE. TURKEY WHAT? AMAZING. DUNKIN'S NEW TURKEY SAUSAGE BREAKFAST SANDWICH. SURPRISINGLY GREAT SAUSAGE TASTE WITH UNDER 400 CALORIES. TRY ONE TODAY. AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'. [ Female Announcer ] DONE YET? THIS IS SO GOOD. IT'S STARTING! ALL RIGHT, DRINK IT UP. OKAY, JUST GIVE ME A FEW MINUTES. A FEW MINUTES?! ENJOY DUNKIN'S NEW DARK HOT CHOCOLATE TODAY. IT'S JUST ONE OF OUR IRRESISTIBLY RICH HOT CHOCOLATE FLAVORS. AMERICA RUNS ON DUNKIN'.



# News Clips Report

## **EPA changed course after oil company protested Yahoo! Finance**

**01/18/2013**

AP Exclusive: EPA reversed course on tainted Texas water wells after gas company protested

WEATHERFORD, Texas (AP) -- When a man in a Fort Worth suburb reported his family's drinking water had begun bubbling like champagne, the federal government sounded an alarm: An oil company may have tainted their wells while drilling for natural gas.

At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane. More than a year later, the agency rescinded its mandate and refused to explain why.

Now a confidential report obtained by The Associated Press and interviews with company representatives show that the EPA had scientific evidence against the driller, Range Resources, but changed course after the company threatened not to cooperate with a national study into a common form of drilling called hydraulic fracturing. Regulators set aside an analysis that concluded the drilling could have been to blame for the contamination.

For Steve Lipsky, the EPA decision seemed to ignore the dangers to his family. His water supply contains so much methane that the gas in water flowing from a pipe connected to the well can be ignited.

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," said Lipsky, who fears he will have to abandon his dream home in an upscale neighborhood of Weatherford.

The case isn't the first in which the EPA initially linked a hydraulic fracturing operation to water contamination and then softened its position after the industry protested.

A similar dispute unfolded in west-central Wyoming in late 2011, when the EPA released an initial report that showed hydraulic fracturing could have contaminated groundwater. After industry and GOP leaders went on the attack, the agency said it had decided to do more testing. It has yet to announce a final conclusion.

Hydraulic fracturing — often called "fracking" — allows drillers to tap into oil and gas reserves that were once considered out of reach because they were locked in deep layers of rock.

The method has contributed to a surge in natural gas drilling nationwide, but environmental activists and some scientists believe it can contaminate groundwater. The industry insists the practice is safe.

Range Resources, a leading independent player in the natural gas boom, has hundreds of gas wells throughout Texas, Pennsylvania and other mineral-rich areas of the United States. Among them is a production site — now owned by Legend Natural Gas — in a wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home in Weatherford, about a half-hour drive west of Fort Worth.

State agencies usually regulate water and air pollution, so the EPA's involvement in the Texas matter was unusual from the start. The EPA began investigating complaints about the methane in December 2010, because it said the Texas Railroad Commission, which oversees oil and gas drilling, had not responded quickly enough to the reports of bubbling water.

# News Clips Report

Government scientists believed two families, including the Lipskys, were in danger from methane and cancer-causing benzene and ordered Range Resources to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water. The company stopped doing that after state regulators declared in March 2011 that Range Resources was not responsible. The dispute between the EPA and the company then moved into federal court.

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Meanwhile, the EPA was seeking industry leaders to participate in a national study into hydraulic fracturing. Range Resources told EPA officials in Washington that so long as the agency continued to pursue a "scientifically baseless" action against the company in Weatherford, it would not take part in the study and would not allow government scientists onto its drilling sites, said company attorney David Poole.

In March 2012, the EPA retracted its emergency order, halted the court battle and set aside Thyne's report showing that the gas in Lipsky's water was nearly identical to the gases the Plano, Texas-based company was producing.

"They said that they would look into it, which I believe is exactly what they did," Poole said. "I'm proud of them. As an American, I think that's exactly what they should have done."

The EPA offered no public explanation for its change in thinking, and Lipsky said he and his family learned about it from a reporter. The agency refused to answer questions about the decision, instead issuing a statement by email that said resolving the Range Resources matter allowed the EPA to shift its "focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction."

Rob Jackson, chairman of global environmental change at Duke University's Nicholas School of the Environment, reviewed Thyne's report and the raw data upon which it was based. He agreed the gas in Lipsky's well could have originated in a rock formation known as the Barnett shale, the same area where Range Resources was extracting gas.

Jackson said it was "premature" to withdraw the order and said the EPA "dropped the ball in dropping their investigation."

Lipsky, who is still tied up in a legal battle with Range Resources, now pays about \$1,000 a month to haul water to his home. He, his wife and three children become unnerved when their methane detectors go off. Sometime soon, he said, the family will have to decide whether to stay in the large stone house or move.

"This has been total hell," Lipsky said. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life."

The confidential report relied on a type of testing known as isotopic analysis, which produces a unique chemical fingerprint that sometimes allows researchers to trace the origin of gas or oil.

Jackson, who studies hydraulic fracturing and specializes in isotopic analysis, acknowledged that more data is needed to determine for certain where the gas came from. But even if the gas came from elsewhere, Range Resources' drilling could have contributed to the problem in Lipsky's water because gas migrates, he added.

The company insists the gas in Lipsky's water is from natural migration and not drilling. Range Resources' testing indicates the gas came from a different rock formation called Strawn shale and not the deeper Barnett shale, Poole said.

In addition, he said, isotopic analysis cannot be used in this case because the chemical makeup of the gases in the two formations is indistinguishable. A Range Resources spokesman also dismissed Thyne and Jackson as anti-industry.

# News Clips Report

Range Resources has not shared its data with the EPA or the Railroad Commission. Poole said the data is proprietary and could only be seen by Houston-based Weatherford Laboratories, where it originated. It was analyzed for Range Resources by a Weatherford scientist, Mark McCaffrey, who did not respond to requests for an interview.

Gas has always been in the water in that area, Poole said. And years before Range Resources began drilling, at least one water well in the neighborhood contained so much methane, it went up in flames.

At another home with dangerously high methane levels in the water, the company insisted the gas had been there since the well was first dug many years ago. The homeowner was not aware of anything wrong until Range Resources began drilling in 2009.

Jackson said it was "unrealistic" to suggest that people could have tainted water and not notice.

"It bubbles like champagne or mineral waters," he said. "The notion that people would have wells and have this in their water and not see this is wrong."

Associated Press writers Nomaan Merchant in Dallas, Allen Breed in Raleigh, N.C., and Michael Rubinkam in Allentown, Pa., contributed to this report.

Plushnick-Masti can be followed on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/RamitMastiAP>

# News Clips Report

**Action News This Morning 6am**  
**Action News This Morning - WBNG-TV**

**01/18/2013**

Kurylo says he'll continue to fight to save his family's home .. And hopefully help others in Broome County. It's not every day that you see big name celebrities touring the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. But this trip wasn't so much about meeting fans and signing autographs... ...As it was about observing the impact of hydraulic fracturing. Susan Sarandon, Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon made the trip from New York City to Susquehanna County. They are a part of Artists Against Fracking. Residents shared their homes and stories of how natural gas drilling affects their daily life. Other groups followed the bus tour to make sure their side of the story was heard.... ...That some people support natural gas drilling. Those against it, though, are hoping to raise awareness."I guess that's what we have to do, is tell people, you know there's so many different ways to get energy but water is just water, it's just a god-given gift." "this is a publicity stunt as far as we're concerned. It's an example of some people who have absolutely no stake in the matter, come up here and... they're simply taking advantage of a trendy cause." Shepstone is from the Northeast Marcellus Initiative and stands by the EPA decision last year that found the water in Dimock Township is safe to drink. It's Now ---- We'll check in with Meteorologist Greg Pollak. for a look at your morning forecast... Greg? Other than a few snow showers and flurries early this morning, we'll see partly sunny skies during the day. Highs will be in the low to mid 20's. A warm front will lift through the area tonight, and that will increase temperatures for Saturday. A brief southwesterly flow will bump highs up into the lower 40's.By Sunday, a strong arctic cold front will move through dropping our

# News Clips Report

**Action News This Morning 5am**  
**Action News This Morning - WBNG-TV**

**01/18/2013**

Kurylo says he'll continue to fight to save his family's home .. And hopefully help others in Broome County. The Governor of Pennsylvania says he is looking to privatize the state's lottery system. Governor Tom Corbett says he hopes a company called Camelot Global Services will buy the lottery. The governor says Camelot will maximize profit as it ensures security for programs aiding the state's senior population, which is on the rise. The contract with Camelot Global Services offers 3 to 4 point 5 billion dollars worth of new funding for senior programs... Which is promised to stick around for more than 20 years."this is about our growing population of older Pennsylvanians.It's about making certain their remaining years are lived with dignity and independence. That can only be accomplished if we keep our promises to them." The Governor says his decision comes after nine months of research into the plan. PA has the fourth largest population of older adults in the country. It's not every day that you see big name celebrities touring the Northern Tier of Pennsylvania. But this trip wasn't so much about meeting fans and signing autographs... ...As it was about observing the impact of hydraulic fracturing. Susan Sarandon, Yoko Ono and Sean Lennon made the trip from New York City to Susquehanna County. They are a part of Artists Against Fracking. Residents shared their homes and stories of how natural gas drilling affects their daily life. Other groups followed the bus tour to make sure their side of the story was heard.... ...That some people support natural gas drilling. Those against it, though, are hoping to raise awareness."I guess that's what we have to do, is tell people, you know there's so many different ways to get energy but water is just water, it's just a god-given gift." "this is a publicity stunt as far as we're concerned. It's an example of some people who have absolutely no stake in the matter, come up here and ... they're simply taking advantage of a trendy cause." Shepstone is from the Northeast Marcellus Initiative and stands by the EPA decision last year that found the water in Dimock Township is safe to drink. It's Now ---- We'll check in with Meteorologist Greg Pollak. for a look at your morning forecast... Greg?

# News Clips Report

## **Deroy Murdock: Get over the fear of fracking** **Visalia Times-Delta - Online**

**01/18/2013**

If frackophobes are to be believed, natural-gas fracking is the most frightful environmental nightmare since Japan's Fukushima nuclear-power plant melted down amid an earthquake and tsunami.

In "Promised Land," Matt Damon's new anti-fracking movie -- funded by the United Arab Emirates -- one character demonstrates this production technique's "dangers" by drenching a toy farm with household chemicals and then setting it ablaze.

In the upcoming pro-fracking film, "Fracknation" ([fracknation.com](http://fracknation.com)) one Pennsylvania homeowner absurdly claims that fracking polluted his well water with weapons-grade uranium.

In a New Yorkers Against Fracking agitprop poster, the Statue of Liberty furiously topples natural-gas drilling towers with her torch as energy-company 18-wheelers flee in horror.

These warnings might be believable if fracking regulators seemed even slightly worried. Instead, federal and state environmental officials appear positively serene about hydraulic fracturing, a decades-old technology that uses sand and chemically treated water to shatter shale deposits far below the water table and liberate natural gas from the ruptured rocks.

"In no case have we made a definitive determination that the fracking process has caused chemicals to enter groundwater," Environmental Protection Agency administrator Lisa Jackson stated last April. In May 2011, she testified on Capitol Hill: "I'm not aware of any proven case where the fracking process itself has affected water."

The EPA tested drinking water in Dimock, Pa., which ecologists claim fracking has tainted. "EPA has determined that there are not levels of contaminants present that would require additional action by the Agency," it concluded last July.

"A study that examined the water quality of 127 shallow domestic wells in the Fayetteville Shale natural gas production area of Arkansas found no groundwater contamination associated with gas production," the U.S. Geological Survey announced Wednesday.

"Significant adverse impacts on human health are not expected from routine HVHF," or high-volume hydraulic fracturing, according to a February 2012 preliminary report from New York's Department of Environmental Conservation. Governor Andrew Cuomo (D - New York) has pondered this issue since 2010 and promises further contemplation, including another draft of what DEC now calls an "outdated summary."

"New York would be crazy not to lift the moratorium" against fracking, former Pennsylvania Gov. Ed Rendell, a Democrat, told the New York Post in November. The former Democratic National Chairman continued: "I told Gov. Cuomo I would come to testify before any legislative committee's a good thing to do."

"We have never had any cases of groundwater contamination from hydraulic fracturing," Elizabeth Ames Jones said in 2011. The then-Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission, which supervises natural gas, added: "It is geologically impossible for fracturing fluid to reach an aquifer a thousand feet above."

While California last month unveiled new disclosure and monitoring rules for fracking, State Oil & Gas Supervisor Tim Kustic told the San Jose Mercury News: "There is no evidence of harm from fracking in groundwater in California at this

# News Clips Report

point in time. And it has been going on for many years."

"We've used hydraulic fracturing for some 60 years in Oklahoma, and we have no confirmed cases where it is responsible for drinking water contamination -- nor do any of the other natural gas-producing states," Corporation Commission Chairman Bob Anthony wrote in August 2010.

"In the 41 years that I have supervised oil and gas exploration, production and development in South Dakota, no documented case of water-well or aquifer damage by the fracking of oil or gas wells, has been brought to my attention," said the Department of Environment's Fred Steece. "Nor am I aware of any such cases before my time." Steece commented in a June 2009 New York DEC document that cites regulators from 15 states who identified zero examples of fracking-related water pollution.

The Americans quoted here are neither gas-company executives nor petro-publicists. These are public servants who oversee this industry, and many work or have worked for red-tape-loving Democrats. Nonetheless, they are unafraid of fracking. Thus, frackophobes have nothing to offer but fear itself.

Murdock is a columnist with Scripps Howard News Service and a media fellow with the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University.

# News Clips Report

## **Obama EPA Shut Down Weatherford, TX Shale Gas Water Contamination Study Huffington Post, The**

**01/18/2013**

The Associated Press (AP) has a breaking investigative story out today revealing that the Obama Administration's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) censored a smoking gun scientific report in March 2012 that it had contracted out to a scientist who did field data on 32 water samples in Weatherford, TX.

That report, according to the AP, would have explicitly linked methane migration in groundwater to hydraulic fracturing ("fracking") in Weatherford, a city with 25,000+ citizens located in the heart of the Barnett Shale geologic formation 30 minutes from Dallas.

It was authored by Geoffrey Thyne, a geologist formerly was on the faculty of the Colorado School of Mines and University of Wyoming before departing from the latter for a job in the private sector. He now works for Interrallogic Inc. in Ft Collins, CO.

This isn't the first time Thyne's scientific research has been shoved aside, either.

Thyne wrote two landmark studies on groundwater contamination in Garfield County, CO, the first showing that it existed, the second showing that the contamination is directly linked to fracking. It's the second study that got him in trouble.

"Thyne says he was told to cease his research by higher-ups. He didn't," The Checks and Balances Project explained. "And when it came to renew his contract, Thyne was cut loose."

From Smoking Gun to Censorship: The Range Resources Link

The Obama EPA's Weatherford, TX study was long-in-the-making, with its origins actually dating back to a case of water contamination 2010. The victim: Steve Lipsky.

"At first, the Environmental Protection Agency believed the situation was so serious that it issued a rare emergency order in late 2010 that said at least two homeowners were in immediate danger from a well saturated with flammable methane," the AP wrote.

AP proceeded to explain that Lipsky had "reported his family's drinking water had begun 'bubbling' like champagne" and that his "well...contains so much methane that the...water [is] pouring out of a garden hose [that] can be ignited."

The driller in this case was a corporation notorious for intimidating local communities and governmental officials at all levels of governance: Range Resources. Range, in this case, set up shop for shale gas production in a "wooded area about a mile from Lipsky's home," according to the AP.

As DeSmogBlog revealed in November 2011, Range Resources utilizes psychological warfare techniques as part of its overarching public relations strategy.

Due to the grave health concerns associated with methane's and benzene's presence in drinking water, the Obama EPA "ordered Range...to take steps to clean their water wells and provide affected homeowners with safe water," wrote the AP.

Range's response? It "threatened not to cooperate" with its study on fracking's link to water contamination. The non-



# News Clips Report

cooperation lead to the Obama EPA suing Range Resources.

It is during this phase of the struggle where things got interesting. As the AP explained,

Believing the case was headed for a lengthy legal battle, the Obama EPA asked an independent scientist named Geoffrey Thyne to analyze water samples taken from 32 water wells. In the report obtained by the AP, Thyne concluded from chemical testing that the gas in the drinking water could have originated from Range Resources' nearby drilling operation.

Despite this smoking gun, everything was soon shut down, with the Obama EPA reversing its emergency order, terminating the court battle and censoring Thyne's report. The AP explained that the Obama EPA has "refused to answer questions about the decision."

"I just can't believe that an agency that knows the truth about something like that, or has evidence like this, wouldn't use it," Lipsky, who now pays \$1,000 a month to have water hauled to his house, told the AP.

"Duke Study" Co-Author Confirms Thyne Study's Veracity

Robert Jackson, a Professor of Global Environmental Change at Duke University and co-author of the "Duke Study" linking fracking to groundwater contamination did an independent peer review of Thyne's censored findings. He found that it is probable that the methane in Lipsky's likely came from the fracking process.

Range predictably dismissed Thyne and Jackson as "anti-industry."

Americans Against Fracking: An "Unconscionable" Decision by the EPA.

Americans Against Fracking summed up the situation best in a scathing press release:

It is unconscionable that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is tasked with safeguarding our nation's vital natural resources, would fold under pressure to the oil and gas industry...It is again abundantly clear that the deep pocketed oil and gas industry will stop at nothing to protect its own interests, even when mounting scientific evidence shows that drilling and fracking pose a direct threat to vital drinking water supplies.

There's also a tragic human side to this tale.

"This has been total hell," Lipsky told the AP. "It's been taking a huge toll on my family and on our life."

Photo Credit: Shutterstock | Aaron Amat

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# News Clips Report

## **Matt Mead, Wyoming Governor, Speaks Out Against EPA Extension Of Groundwater Comment Period** **Huffington Post, The**

**01/18/2013**

CHEYENNE, Wyo. (AP) — Wyoming Gov. Matt Mead has joined those expressing disappointment that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has extended for a third time a public comment period on a report on groundwater pollution in a Wyoming gas field rather than moving toward wrapping up the study.

The comment period was supposed to end Tuesday. Last week, the EPA announced it would be extended to Sept. 30. That could postpone independent experts' formal review of the December, 2011, report by another eight months or more.

"Wyoming did not ask for this delay nor do we want it. This does not move us toward resolving the concerns of the landowners in the area," Mead said in a statement released Wednesday.

The report on the EPA's findings in the Pavillion area marked the first time the federal agency blamed hydraulic fracturing for a specific case of groundwater pollution. Fracking involves pumping water, sand and chemicals into oil and gas wells to fracture open rock formations and increase the flow of oil and gas.

The report widened the gap between environmentalists who characterize fracking as a threat to clean groundwater and petroleum industry officials who insist fracking is safe. Both sides agree on one thing: The comment period extension is unnecessary.

Doug Hock, spokesman for Calgary-based Encana, which owns the gas field in the Pavillion area in west-central Wyoming, said by email: "There's no credible reason for further delay."

Those with polluted well water "continue to suffer the effects of living in a contaminated environment" while peer review is delayed, John Fenton, chairman of the group Pavillion Area Concerned Citizens, said in a release last week.

Contacted by email Wednesday, EPA Region 8 spokesman Rich Mylott would not respond to the governor's remarks. He also did not answer a question about the EPA's plans for peer review of the report.

He reiterated part of a prepared statement the EPA released to reporters who asked about the extension.

"The Agency will take into account new data, further stakeholder input, and public comment as it continues to review the status of the Pavillion investigation and considers options for moving forward," Mylott wrote, adding that he had no more information to provide.

The comment period began on Dec. 14, 2011, and was extended twice last year.

The first extension was last March, after the state and EPA agreed to collaborate on further groundwater testing. The second extension was in October, soon after those new test results — which were similar to the results of EPA's earlier testing — came out.

In a Saturday Oct. 13, 2012 photo, Amanda McCracken, of Big Stone Gap, stands with her children, Kaylee, 6, and Pryston, 8, at Saturday's United for Coal demonstration in support of her husband and their father, who is a coal miner. Only a few generations ago, coal miners were literally at war with their employers, spilling and shedding blood on West Virginia's Blair Mountain in a historic battle for union representation and fair treatment. Today, their descendants are allies

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in a carefully choreographed rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. It's fueled by a single, unrelenting message that they now face a common enemy \_ the federal government \_ that has decided that coal is no longer king, or even noble. (AP Photo/Bristol Herald Courier, Allie Robinson)

In this April 2010 photo, miners watch as a piece of equipment passes by in the Tech Leasing and Rebuild Inc. Mine #1 in Buchanan County, Va. Once, coal miners were literally at war with their employers. Today, their descendants are allies in a rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. The message: They now face a common enemy - the federal government, especially the president and the Environmental Protection Agency. The war on coal is a sound bite and a headline, perpetuated by pundits, power companies and public relations consultants who have crafted a neat label for a complex set of realities, one that compels people to choose sides. (AP Photo/Bristol Herald Courier, David Crigger)

In a Saturday Oct. 13, 2012 photo, hundreds congregated along U.S. 23 from Big Stone Gap to Pound and into Kentucky in support of coal miners and the mining industry. Only a few generations ago, coal miners were literally at war with their employers, spilling and shedding blood on West Virginia's Blair Mountain in a historic battle for union representation and fair treatment. Today, their descendants are allies in a carefully choreographed rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. It's fueled by a single, unrelenting message that they now face a common enemy, the federal government, that has decided that coal is no longer king, or even noble. (AP Photo/Bristol Herald Courier, Allie Robinson)

Republican candidates are using the idea of a "war on coal" in their campaigns this year, as in this sign that targets incumbent Democratic U.S. Sen. Joe Manchin in Morgantown, W.Va., on Oct. 16, 2012. Once, coal miners were literally at war with their employers. Today, their descendants are allies in a rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. The message: They now face a common enemy, the federal government, especially the president and the Environmental Protection Agency. (AP Photo/Vicki Smith)

In this April 2010 photo, a coal miner drives a scoop while working in the Tech Leasing and Rebuild Inc. Mine #1 in Buchanan County, Va. Once, coal miners were literally at war with their employers. Today, their descendants are allies in a rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. The message: They now face a common enemy - the federal government, especially the president and the Environmental Protection Agency. The war on coal is a sound bite and a headline, perpetuated by pundits, power companies and public relations consultants who have crafted a neat label for a complex set of realities, one that compels people to choose sides. (AP Photo/Bristol Herald Courier, David Crigger)

In this Saturday Oct. 13, 2012 photo, a man speaks to the crowd at a United for Coal event in Pikeville, Ky. Once, coal miners were literally at war with their employers. Today, their descendants are allies in a rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. The message: They now face a common enemy - the federal government, especially the president and the Environmental Protection Agency. The war on coal is a sound bite and a headline, perpetuated by pundits, power companies and public relations consultants who have crafted a neat label for a complex set of realities, one that compels people to choose sides. (AP Photo/Appalachian News-Express, Elizabeth Thompson)

A truck passes a political sign in a yard in Dellslow, W.Va., on Oct. 16, 2012. Rhetoric about the administration's alleged "war on coal" has come to dominate conversation this campaign season. Once, coal miners were literally at war with their employers. Today, their descendants are allies in a rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. The message: They now face a common enemy \_ the federal government, especially the president and the Environmental Protection Agency. (AP Photo/Vicki Smith)

In a Saturday Oct. 13, 2012 photo, hundreds of supporters signed the American Energy Alliance bus, which has for the past two months traveled around the country, during a United for Coal Rally in Southwest Va. Only a few generations

# News Clips Report

ago, coal miners were literally at war with their employers, spilling and shedding blood on West Virginia's Blair Mountain in a historic battle for union representation and fair treatment. Today, their descendants are allies in a carefully choreographed rhetorical war playing out across eastern Kentucky, southwestern Virginia and all of West Virginia. It's fueled by a single, unrelenting message that they now face a common enemy \_ the federal government \_ that has decided that coal is no longer king, or even noble. (AP Photo/Bristol Herald Courier, Allie Robinson)

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# News Clips Report

## **American Power Group Corporation's CEO to Present at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013** **Marketwire**

**01/18/2013**

LYNNFIELD, MA, January 18 / Marketwire/ --

American Power Group Corporation (OTCQB: APGI) announced that its CEO, Lyle Jensen, will speak at the World LNG Fuels Conference 2013 to discuss the Company's recent success in converting hydraulic fracturing rig pumps and oil and gas drilling rig generators to run on either liquefied natural gas (LNG), well-head gas or pipeline gas and diesel fuel. The seminar is organized by Zeus Development Corporation, an information clearinghouse and consultancy for rapid-growth energy markets. The seminar will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas and American Power Group's presentation will be on Wednesday, January 23, 2013. Please refer to for further information.

### About American Power Group Corporation

American Power Group's alternative energy subsidiary, American Power Group, Inc., provides a cost-effective patented Turbocharged Natural Gas™ conversion technology for vehicular, stationary and off-road mobile diesel engines. American Power Group's dual fuel technology is a unique non-invasive energy enhancement system that converts existing diesel engines into more efficient and environmentally friendly engines that have the flexibility to run on: (1) diesel fuel and liquefied natural gas; (2) diesel fuel and compressed natural gas; (3) diesel fuel and pipeline or well-head gas; and (4) diesel fuel and bio-methane, with the flexibility to return to 100% diesel fuel operation at any time. The proprietary technology seamlessly displaces up to 80% of the normal diesel fuel consumption with the average displacement ranging from 40% to 65%. The energized fuel balance is maintained with a proprietary read-only electronic controller system ensuring the engines operate at original equipment manufacturers' specified temperatures and pressures. Installation on a wide variety of engine models and end-market applications require no engine modifications unlike the more expensive invasive fuel-injected systems in the market. See additional information at: .

### Caution Regarding Forward-Looking Statements and Opinions

With the exception of the historical information contained in this release, the matters described herein contain forward-looking statements and opinions, including, but not limited to, statements relating to new markets, development and introduction of new products, and financial and operating projections. These forward-looking statements and opinions are neither promises nor guarantees, but involve risk and uncertainties that may individually or mutually impact the matters herein, and cause actual results, events and performance to differ materially from such forward-looking statements and opinions. These risk factors include, but are not limited to, results of future operations, difficulties or delays in developing or introducing new products and keeping them on the market, the results of future research, lack of product demand and market acceptance for current and future products, adverse events, product changes, the effect of economic conditions, the impact of competitive products and pricing, governmental regulations with respect to emissions, including whether EPA approval will be obtained for future products and additional applications, the results of litigation, factors affecting the Company's future income and resulting ability to utilize its NOLs, and/or other factors, which are detailed from time to time in the Company's SEC reports, including the report on Form 10-K for the year ended September 30, 2012 and the Company's quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements and opinions, which speak only as of the date hereof. The Company undertakes no obligation to release publicly the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements and opinions that may be made to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

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# News Clips Report

## CEO To Present At The World LNG Fuels Conference 2013 Market News Publishing

01/18/2013

AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP

AMERICAN POWER GROUP CORP ("APGI-0") - CEO To Present At The World LNG Fuels Conference 2013

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OTCBB closing price for APGI-0 Date: 2013/01/17 Closing Price: 0.73

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# News Clips Report

## **EPA LIKELY FORCED TO DELAY 'CRUCIAL' BASELINE RESEARCH IN FRACKING STUDY Inside EPA Weekly Report**

**01/18/2013**

EPA is not expecting to complete studies that prospectively monitor contamination at new hydraulic fracturing sites until after it completes its massive study of fracking impacts on drinking water, which environmentalists say may hinder the usefulness of the larger analysis because the prospective studies would have provided a crucial pre-drilling baseline to measure whether and when contamination may occur.

"If they don't have a baseline, it's going to be very difficult to come up with [conclusive findings] because they don't have anything to compare it with," one environmentalist says of the final study report, slated for release in late 2014.

Environmentalists and some Democratic lawmakers are hoping the agency's two-year, Congressionally directed study of the relationship between fracking and drinking water will provide the first documented analysis of whether and how the controversial extraction process contributes to groundwater contamination, bolstering support for stricter federal regulation of natural gas development.

The agency's study consists of a slew of research projects, including analysis of existing data, computer modeling of various scenarios, laboratory studies of treated shale gas wastewater, profiling of commonly used fracking chemicals, and a handful of case studies where EPA scientists will conduct sampling at actual drilling sites in an effort to identify potential pathways of contamination.

The case studies are separated into retrospective analyses -- in which EPA will conduct monitoring activities at five drilling sites where fracking has already occurred to attempt to review potential impacts on nearby drinking water sources -- and prospective studies, where fracking is planned but has not yet been initiated.

For the prospective case studies, EPA plans to sample groundwater near the sites prior to, and after, each stage of drilling, allowing the agency to collect baseline data so that any water quality changes that occur as the site is developed can be recorded.

However, the agency has struggled with technical and legal issues in orchestrating the plans for prospective studies with participating companies. In an interim version of the report released late last year, EPA says it anticipates that the prospective studies, which will take up to a year to complete after they have commenced, will not be available until after the final study is published, currently slated for December 2014.

"The EPA continues to work with industry partners to begin research activities at potential prospective case study locations, which involve sites where the research will begin before well construction," the Dec. 21 interim report says.

Glenn Paulson, science advisor to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, told a Jan. 8 EPA progress review of Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grant research that the agency has been forced to scrap one of the two planned prospective studies, at a Haynesville Shale site in DeSoto Parish, LA, due to technical issues. The agency will continue to work with that company to identify a new site, Paulson said.

However, for the second planned prospective case study, EPA is struggling to resolve lingering legal questions posed by the energy company that had planned on participating in the study, and "it looks like those questions can't be resolved," Paulson said, indicating that the study "likely will not go forward."

That study had been slated for a Washington County, PA site, part of the prolific Marcellus Shale that underlies

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Pennsylvania and much of the Northeast.

But legal issues arose, Paulson said, when "lawyers started to talk to each other" over EPA's request that agency scientists have access to all stages of the development, and industry attorneys raised questions over whether that would incur safety and liability risks. Paulson added that he was unconvinced that the industry concerns were valid, but that discussions appear to be at an impasse.

The retrospective studies, which are sites where groundwater contamination has been reported, are still moving forward as planned and are already underway, and EPA says those studies will help the agency better understand the underlying causes of the pollution and potential impacts to drinking water resources.

But environmentalists charge that without good baseline data to document that the groundwater was not already contaminated prior to drilling, it will be more difficult for the agency to defend any conclusions implicating fracking as the cause for contamination. Without that baseline data the environmentalist says, there remains an "information vacuum" and it is difficult for environmentalists to count industry's longstanding claims that there are no documented cases where fracking has been shown to contaminate groundwater.

And a second environmentalist, in response to EPA's release of the interim report on the fracking study, says it is "disappointing" that EPA has made so little progress in moving along the prospective case studies, and has failed to explain its lack of progress despite having launched the analysis in 2011.

"The prospective case studies are incredibly important, as they will be the first independent review of what actually happens on the ground from start to finish," the second source says.

EPA and other agencies have increasingly highlighted the importance of collecting baseline data prior to drilling, noting that a lack of background information on groundwater quality can undermine efforts to determine whether fracking or drilling activities can contribute to contamination of drinking water resources.

For example, EPA in its Dec. 8, 2011 draft report outlining contamination of an aquifer located close to Pavillion, WY, situated near gas drilling activities -- which acknowledges that the cause is likely fracking fluid -- says that its investigation highlights the importance of collecting baseline data.

The Pavillion study has been widely criticized by Republican lawmakers, industry, and state officials who argue that EPA's methodology for taking data from the contaminated aquifer was flawed and could have led to cross-contamination of the samples. EPA said in the draft report, "Collection of baseline data prior to hydraulic fracturing is necessary to reduce investigative costs and to verify or refute impacts to ground water."

While the Pavillion draft report was released in 2011, EPA recently extended the public comment period to Sept. 30, according to a notice in the Jan. 11 Federal Register. Relevant documents are available on InsideEPA.com. See page 2 for details. (Doc ID: 2421248)

But a spokesman for Encana, the energy company that drills near Pavillion, says that the delay, which is the third time EPA has extended the public comment period since the draft report's December 2011 release, is disappointing, calling it "a disservice not only to Encana, but to the people of Pavillion and the State of Wyoming."

Encana and other industry groups have urged EPA to elevate the study to a highly influential scientific assessment (HISA), which the agency declined to do on the grounds that the draft study did not fit the White House Office of Management & Budget guidelines for a HISA. EPA instead has suggested it will treat the study as an influential scientific information. -- Bridget DiCosmo

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# News Clips Report

## **FRACKING BAN EXPIRES IN N.J., DEBATE LIVES ON**

**Record, The**  
**Woodland Park, NJ**  
**James O'Neill**  
**01/18/2013**

The controversial practice of drilling natural gas out of bedrock by fracking is no longer banned in New Jersey.

The state's one-year moratorium on hydraulic fracturing, imposed last year by Governor Christie, expired Thursday, and environmental groups lamented that the state is now exposed to the potential pollution that many critics say can be caused by the procedure.

The state Legislature in late 2011 had sent Christie a bill that permanently banned hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, but the governor had issued a conditional veto that limited the ban to a year, because he wanted to wait for the results of a study under way by the Environmental Protection Agency to assess the potential effects of fracking on drinking water supplies.

The EPA was expected to produce a preliminary report by late last year but did not release any conclusions, and said it expects to release a draft report in late 2014. The EPA is overseeing 18 research projects on the issue.

Earlier this month, Declan J. O'Scanlon Jr., a Republican assemblyman from Monmouth County, introduced a bill that would extend New Jersey's fracking moratorium until the EPA's report is released and reviewed by the state Department of Environmental Protection. The bill is still in committee. A Senate version of the bill is sponsored by Sen. Robert Gordon, D-Fair Lawn.

The bill language notes that fracking chemicals "can suddenly and in an uncontrolled manner be introduced into the surface waters and ground water" and that "companies engaging in the use of this drilling technique have been less than forthcoming in revealing the 'cocktail' of chemicals and their volume that can be introduced" into the water.

It also cites a 2010 uncontrolled release of contaminated water from a fracking drill site in Pennsylvania.

Christie spokesman Michael Drewniak said Thursday that the administration would make an announcement about the expired moratorium soon, likely before the end of the month.

Fracking involves pumping large amounts of water and chemicals deep into the ground to break up bedrock and release trapped natural gas. Critics have argued that the chemicals can seep into groundwater and aquifers, contaminating drinking water supplies.

The gas industry has said the practice is safe, and supporters argue that extracting natural gas is essential to help the United States gain energy independence.

Earlier this month, a leaked New York State Health Department report indicated that fracking could be conducted safely in upstate New York, but Gov. Andrew Cuomo and environmentalists dismissed the report as outdated and incomplete. Fracking has been banned in New York State since 2008.

Whether natural gas companies would ever find New Jersey an appealing site for fracking remains debatable.

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